The Journal

OF THE

JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

VOL. XI. APRIL 1907. No. 4.

Board of Management.

THE first Meeting of the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society since the earthquake was held at the temporary office of the Society, 82 Hanover Street, on Tuesday 19th March, at 11.30 a.m.; present: Hon. W. Fawcett, Deputy Chairman, presiding; Hons. Dr. Pringle, H. C. Bourne, H. T. Ronaldson and R. P. Simmonds; Messrs. D. Campbell, R. H. Hotchkin, E. W. Muirhead and the Secretary John Barclay.

The Secretary read Minutes of the last meeting in December which were approved and directed to be printed in the April *Journal* along with the current month's records.

Apologies for absence were intimated from His Excellency the Governor, Hon. Geo. McGrath, Messrs. R Craig, J. Shore and J. R. Williams.

The Secretary reported that the Minutes and papers connected with the December Meeting were burnt in the printers' establishment where they had been sent in connection with the printing of the January *Journal*. He had therefore made up fresh Minutes.

Grant.—The Secretary read letter from the Government *re* grant, stating that as the necessity for observing great economy had not passed away the Governor regretted that he did not feel at liberty to increase the Society's grant to £1,400 for the next financial year.

Estimates.—The Secretary said that owing to the earthquake there would require to be some reconsideration of the estimates and he submitted fresh statements showing considerable saving. He said that he would ask for a special grant of £20 in order to replace staionery, desks, ta bles and library books, etc. Fortunately, as he had already reported to the Board by letter, part of the office equipment had been at the Conference Hall and was therefore saved, and he had been able to save a further part from the ruins of the office. The amount asked for was allowed.

Cargo Space on Direct Line Steamers.—The Secretary read letter from the Colonial Secretary's Office, with enclosure as follows:—

No. 9923-408 21st January, 1907.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Governor has recently considered the question of the suitability of the accommodation provided under their contract by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company on their

vessels for citrus and other fruit other than the 20,000 bunches of bananas purchased by them each voyage under clause 7 of the contract.

2. Clause 9 of the contract provides that all fruit conveyed under the contract—that is to say fruit shipped on consignment as well as fruit purchased, by the contractors—shall at all times during the period of conveyance be protected by the contractors by such precautions and system of ventilation as shall from time to time be the best known for the purpose of preventing such fruit being damaged by wet, effluvia, steam, heat, undue pressure, or any other cause.

3. Under clause 18 the Colonial Government may from time to time cause any steamer employed under the contract to be inspected as regards her machinery, hull, *fittings or otherwise*, and the contractors are bound to make good to the satisfaction of the Colonial Government any defects on any of the steamers which the Colonial Government may require to be made good.

4. The Governor with the concurrence of the Privy Council has decided to exercise the right of inspection given by the contract, and I am accordingly directed to request that until further order you will on behalf of the Government inspect every vessel employed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company on the performance of the contract immediately prior to her departure from Kingston on her homeward voyage, and report whether the conditions of clause 9 are satisfied, and if not what are the defects which require to be made good.

(Sgd.) J. R. Williams,
Actg. Asst. Colonial Secretary.

To the Harbour Master, Kingston,

The Secretary said that in connection with this he had asked for copies of the Harbour Master's Report on the two steamers since he had been appointed to inspect them and these had been sent on as follows:—

No. 2469-3004.

Sir

In compliance with the request made in your letter No 3720 dated the 9th instant, I am directed to transmit copies of the two reports of inspection of the fruit accommodation provided on board Messrs Elder Dempster & Coy's vessels which have been received since this duty was imposed on the Harbour Master for Kingston.

Robt. Johnstone
(Sgd.) Asst. Colonial Secretary.

Harbour Master's Office
Kingston February 15th '07.

No. 181.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 408/9920/06 dated 21st ult: and in compliance with instructions therein, I have to report that I inspected the Fruit accommodation on board the S.S. *Port Royal* prior to her departure yesterday, and am satisfied that the conditions of clause 9 are satisfied.

(Sgd.) Charlton Thompson.
Harbour Master Kingston.

Harbour Master's Office
Kingston, 1st March 1907.

No. 189.

Sir,

I have the honour to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that I inspected the Fruit Accommodation on board the S.S. *Port Kingston.* prior to her departure yesterday, and am of opinion that the conditions of clause 9 have been satisfied.

(Sgd.) W. E. M. Drummond,
Deputy Harbour Master.

It was pointed out that there was little or no fruit other than bananas being shipped at present, so that until the orange season came in, there was little to check.

The Secretary submitted correspondence from B. C. Orgill enclosing correspondence between Messrs Elder Dempster & Co. and himself as follows:—

120, Clive Road, West Dulwich, S.E.
Dec. 20, 1906.

MESSRS. ELDER, DEMPSTER & CO., Liverpool.

Gentlemen,

I have observed that a representation has been made to the Jamaica Government from your office, that shippers of fruit in Jamaica are not availing themselves of the freight space assigned in your steamers for their use.

In this connection I should like to submit for your consideration two causes which are alleged as deterring shippers from fully utilizing the space allotted:

1. Bad stowage, whereby the fruit arrives in this country in a wasty condition;
2. The delay which occurs in delivering the fruit after the arrival of the ship at Avonmouth.

Of the first, I am not in a position to speak with authority, in so far as stowage is concerned, but that a large proportion of the citrus fruit arrives in this country in bad condition there can be no manner of doubt—which I am able to fully confirm, as the result of repeated inspections of the fruit arriving at Covent Garden market.

Of course, fruit which is not properly sweated or dried before packing will undoubtedly run the risk of arriving in a wasty condition, but if it can be shown by shippers of fruit in Jamaica that at least seven days have been allowed to intervene between gathering and boxing up I am quite sure the fault does not lie with them. As you may be aware, fruit arriving in a wasty condition means certain loss to the shippers.

Of the second reason, I can speak with full authority and to emphasize my representation I will quote a selected case.

On the 25th September last, the *Port Kingston* arrived at Avonmouth with 15 boxes of citrus fruit and 25 bags of cocoanuts consigned to me. The freight release for the citrus fruit was obtained from your office at 4, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C. on the morning of the 26th September, and forthwith endorsed and despatched on the same date to the Superintendent of the Goods Department at Paddington for delivery.

Part of the citrus fruit was not delivered at Covent Garden until the morning of the 29th September and the balance on the 1st

Oct. or, in other words, it took from Tuesday until the following Monday, six days, to complete the delivery from Avonmouth. The 25 sacks cocoanuts were not delivered to my agent in Bristol until the following Monday, the 1st Oct.

*I should like to point out to you that it is of the utmost im*portance to shippers to have their fruit put on the market at the earliest possible opportunity, and what shippers to the London market require is, that their fruit shall be delivered in London not later than the Friday after the arrival of the ship so as to catch the early Saturday market, otherwise there is little chance of selling until the middle of the ensuing week.

On the occasion in question your agents at Bristol stated that "the fruit was not got out of the ship until Friday" (mind you, the fourth day from arrival), "and that there was no delay either on their part or that of the Great Western Railway Co." The cargo of the ship consisted of about 36,000 packages.

I do not know wherein the condition and organization of labour in this country and the United States differ, but I have seen a cargo of about 30,000 bunches bananas delivered and sent off to the various destinations from a ship arriving at Boston, U.S.A. at about 9 a.m. on one day, the delivery being completed by 6 p.m. on the following day and if this expedition can be attained in Yankee Land why not in this grand Old Country ?

In making this representation I do not wish it to be considered as a complaint against your Bristol Branch. as the delay may have been due to causes over which they had no control, besides which any letter addressed to them by me has been most courteously attended to.

The case I have represented is not an isolated one, and the *question of more speedy despatch requires investigation and remedy* and, in conclusion, I would commend to you the exhortation of the Prince of Wales delivered at the Guildhall some two or three years ago—Wake up ! Wake up ! why lag behind ?

(Sgd.) B. C Orgill.

MESSRS. ELDER, DEMPSTER & CO. TO B. C. ORGILL, ESQ.,
120, Clive Road, West Dulwich,
London, E.C.

Dear Sir,

1. With further reference to your letter of the 22nd December, on the question of shipments of cased fruit, about which you wrote us, we have now had an opportunity of going into this matter, and in respect thereof would make the following remarks.

2. As regards the stowage of oranges, we maintain that this fruit will carry well in the non-insulated portions of the ship, which is proved by citrus fruit being carried in ships having no insulated decks. In every instance where wasty condition of fruit is complained of, we are of the opinion that the Jamaica shipper is to blame for not properly sweating and drying his fruit before packing and it is a pitiable thing to those interested in the Island of Jamaica to see such fruit sent over to England in the shape of undeveloped oranges, which do great harm to the market of this fruit, especially so as the Jamaica orange is known to be the best when imported in good condition. Before thinking of blaming the ship for the bad condition of oranges on arrival, we should like it to be proved that the shipper picks his fruit at the right time, treats it properly and packs it rightly.

3. With reference to your remarks as to delay between the time of arrival and delivery in London, we must again call the shippers in as being an obstruction to quick transport on account of the various marks with which they brand their oranges. This is a matter which we have for some time been trying to drive into the minds of shippers but without result. For instance A ships 100 cases Oranges to B. in London on one B/L; it is invariably the case that there are at least a dozen different marks to this lot, and the consequence is that sorting at Avonmouth is a much more lengthy proceeding than it ought to be, as of course they cannot be sorted as they rise out of the ship on account of them not being stowed according to marks, which of course would be an impossibility. Having been sorted into the Sheds at Avonmouth, the London portion is put into trucks, and forwarded by the first opportunity to Paddington Goods yards, where they are landed into shed, re-sorted and delivered to carts, when release is given. Of course, you will understand that the discharge of oranges is not commenced at Avonmouth until all the bananas are out of the ship, as, being more perishable than oranges, this fruit must be landed first, and in addition to this, bananas are invariably stowed on top of oranges.

4. You quote the *Port Kingston* voy. 18. This vessel docked at 3.30 p.m on the 26th September. Your special consignment of 15 cases left Avonmouth G. W. R. at 6 p.m. on the 28th September, and would, in the ordinary course of events, reach Paddington at 6 a.m. We always give every attention to the dispatch of cased fruit at Avonmouth, and must deny emphatically that any delay occurs on our part.

5. You also quote the arrival of a banana boat at Boston with a cargo of 30,000 bunches, which took from 10 a.m. one day until 6 p.m. the following day to clear, which gives a rate of discharge reckoning a day to consist of from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at a little under 1,700 an hour It may surprise you to know that our average work at Avonmouth is 5,000 an hour.

(Sgd) Elder, Dempster & Co.
Jan. 9, 1907.

B. C. Orgill to Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., Liverpool, 15/1/1907.

Gentlemen,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, in the 4th paragraph of which you allege : "We always give every attention to the despatch of cased fruit at Avonmouth and emphatically deny that any delay occurs on our part." In my letter addressed to you I specifically stated that part of a small consignment, which arrived at Avonmouth on the 25th Sept. last (at about noon), final delivery of a portion was not made in Covent Garden until the 1st Oct., the other portion not having been delivered in Bristol until the 1st Oct. also. How then, in face of these specific statements, supported by documentary evidence in my possession, which you can see if you wish, you "emphatically deny delay" seems to point to the conclusion that you are not open to conviction.

While it may be possible to satisfactorily convey citrus fruit in the non-insulated portion of ships for distances of moderate

duration, it certainly is not a success from Jamaica where a long voyage is involved and fruit such as pines, mangoes avocado pears, etc. will not carry satisfactorily without cold storage having regard to the length of the voyage. What Jamaica shippers require is that they shall be provided with insulated decks on your ships, not only for citrus fruit but for the numerous soft fruits which Jamaica produces to perfection in the summer months, to enable them to ship such fruit with success whereby the resources of the island may be developed. In other words, they claim advantages equal to those given to the fruit shipped by Elders & Fyffe, which they do not now get.

Touching the 5th paragraph of your letter in which you vaunt a remarkable celerity of discharge from the ship at Avonmouth, at an average rate of 5,000 packages per hour, how do you reconcile this statement with mine, proved up to the hilt, that it took six days to deliver forty packages of my fruit ex *Port Kingston*, voyage No. 18, 1906 ?

(Sgd.) B. C. Orgill.

N.B. This letter was not answered.

(Sgd.) B.C.O.

120, Clive Road, West Dulwich,
London, S.E.
Feb. 16, 1907.

B. C. ORGILL TO JOHN BARCLAY.

Sir,

Accompanying this, you will find certain correspondence which has passed between myself and the Elder, Dempster Co. of Liverpool relative to the shipment and delivery of fruit from Jamaica to Avonmouth and I shall be obliged if you will bring it before the members of the Board of Agriculture for their consideration.

I understand that clause 9 of the Elder Dempster contract calls for the precaution and system of "ventilation to prevent damage by wet, effluvia, *undue heat*, pressure, and any other cause." It seems a pity that this clause had not been framed in more specific terms by requiring that insulated decks or chambers should be provided in those portions of the ship in which all or any fruit is stowed, (whether it be that of Elder and Fyffe or any other shippers.) Under existing arrangements it would seem that Elder and Fyffe's fruit is very carefully looked after, by being stowed in the insulated part of the ship, while the fruit of outside shippers is stowed in the lower hold which I understand is *not* insulated. That the fruit stowed in the lower hold suffers from "*undue heat*" in the summer months there can be no manner of doubt, and the question arises what action the Government propose to take, to effect a remedy—that is, an observance of the conditions of the contract.

I am not blind to the fact that there may be cases in which the shippers are at fault—as Elder Dempster contend in the second paragraph of their letter of the 9th January, in not sufficiently drying their fruit before casing up, but of this I can say that those with whom I have had business and whom I know make it a rule to sweat or dry their oranges for about a week between gathering and boxing up, there are very few cases which arrive in bad order. If this fruit had been stowed in an insulated deck all would probably have arrived in a perfectly sound condition.

Then as to the question of marks, there is no doubt that the marking of the packages is, in many cases, carried out in a very perfunctory manner. I have frequently seen cases in Covent Garden, coming from Jamaica, in which the marks were illegible, in others apparently no mark at all, and in others the mark is printed on a piece of paper which is pasted on the package and in this last mentioned case the paper, in nine cases out of ten, gets rubbed off, probably before the package leaves the island. These imperfections most certainly militate against rapid handling on arrival, and seem to render the law on the subject somewhat of a farce. Might not these defects be remedied by an *occasional* rigid Customs inspection of all marks before shipment, followed by enforcement of penalties if such be provided. In the Jamaica Rum Law the casks are required to be branded or painted in white on a black ground or vice versa, and in my opinion the latter alternative would be preferable to the indistinct system of branding now generally adopted.

(Sgd,) B. C. Orgill.

The Secretary pointed out that Mr. Orgill was in error so far as he quoted the rate for unloading *bananas* at Boston, and then later referred to the rate for *packages* at Bristol, a great difference. Mr. Muirhead said that in Jamaica now, there were careful shippers who cured the oranges picked for as long as a week, but that Elders & Fyffe's agents often picked and packed on the same day, yet their own steamers to Manchester carried such fruit without loss.

Swine Fever.—The Secretary read letter from the Colonial Secretary's Office as follows:—

No. 258-13405. 10th January, 1907.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2937, dated the 21st ultimo, conveying the recommendation of the Board of Management of your Society that until more exact information can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America as to the prevalence of swine fever in that country, the importation of swine from North America be prohibited and to state in reply for the Board's information that the Governor in Privy Council on the 8th instant made an order under section of Law 24 of 1890 by which effect is given to this recommendation.

2. Notice of the making of this order was given in the Gazette of the 10th instant.

(Sgd.) H. Clarence Bourne.
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary stated that he had written the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, and had received the following letter from them:—

February 13, 1907.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 29th ultimo, concerning the action of your Government in prohibiting the importation of swine from the United States, and inquiring whether hog cholera is any more prevalent than it has been, and whether any steps have been taken by the direction of this Government to insure a clean bill of health for pigs exported from the United States, I beg to advise that hog cholera has not been more prevalent during the past year than

in previous years, and reports concerning outbreaks of the disease would indicate that there has been improvement in this connection.

Concerning export shipments, please find herewith enclosed B. A. I. Order 139, Regulations of this Department governing the inspection, humane-handling, and safe transport of animals carried by ocean steamers from the United States to foreign countries, in which you will observe that regulation No. 1, provides for the inspection of all cattle, sheep, swine, or goats exported from the United States, but that the requirement for a certificate of inspection for the shipment of such animals to Cuba, The West Indies, Central America, and the countries of South America, excepting Argentina and Uruguay, has been waived. The requirement for the certificate to cover shipments to these countries was waived for the reason that the countries indicated, so far as known to this Department, had no regulations bearing upon this matter, and shippers, too, claimed that the certificates of inspection were not required and that in addition the inspection at the port of shipment and the procuring of a certificate to accompany these shipments would cause such delay as to result in embarrassment and the injury of their business. If importers of live-stock in Jamaica were to require inspection and certification as to the healthfulness of animals before shipment, as well as a statement concerning the locality of origin of such animals being free from the infection of disease, proper certificates of inspection by this Bureau could be had for all shipments of live stock.

As a suggestion in this connection, there is enclosed B A. I. Order 109, Regulations of this Department for the inspection and quarantine of horses, neat cattle, sheep, and other ruminants, and swine imported into the United States. Please note health certificates and affidavits provided for in sections b, c, d, and e, of paragraph 2, and the various sections of paragraph No. 6, showing the requirements for the importation into the United States of live stock from Europe and Canada, respectively.

Very respectfully,
A. D. Melvin
Chief of Bureau.

It was stated that it would serve the purpose if shippers were to obtain a clean bill of health at the port of shipment and the Secretary was directed to call the attention of the Government to this.

Anthrax & Texan Fever.—The Secretary submitted letters regarding the alleged outbreak of Anthrax in cattle in St. Elizabeth and Texan Fever in St. Andrew. He had reported the matter to the Government who asked him to make enquiry as to the exact extent of the disease and what had been done to check it. He had made enquiry of the owner of the cattle in St. Elizabeth who had so promptly telegraphed him and of others and found that the cause of the sudden deaths was not due to Anthrax but to another cause easily preventable. With regard to the Texan Fever he found the cause was simply due to want of thorough ticking of the ca le and on this being done the fever had stopped.

South Devon Cattle.—The Secretary stated hat in conn ction with their offer of premiums for the importation Shorthorn, Red Poll and South Devon Bulls, Mr. Ventresse had obj ted to the last named being included contending that the breed was not calculated to improve our native cattle and quoting an article in the *Journal*

taken from "Farm, Field & Fireside" as upholding his contention. The Secretary maintained this article showed plainly that the qualities of South Devon Bulls were just such as the premium called for and that they would improve our mixed breeds of cattle. He had therefore written the Editor of "Farm, Field & Fireside" so as to settle the matter and now submitted the letter which is published on a subsequent page.

The Secretary submitted the following letters from C. S. O.:—

Sale of unwholesome Meat.—1. Re Sale of unwholesome meat as follows:—

15th February 1907.

1397-1941.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2951 dated the 27th December last, transmitting a copy of a Report by the Live Stock Committee of the Jamaica Agricultural Society and copies of two letters from Mr. C. A. T. Fursdon, in regard to the sale of unwholesome meat, and the alleged apathy of the Police in detecting cases.

2. Enquiry has been made of the Inspector General and Kingston General Commissioners in regard to Mr. Fursdon's representations as to the sale at the Slaughter House on Sundays, and of condemned meat there also, and I annex copies of the replies received on these subjects.

3. With respect to the recommendation of the Live Stock Committee that the killing of animals for meat, except at appointed places of slaughter, should be prohibited, I am to observe that to carry it out, it would apparently be necessary for every estate to have a licensed Slaughter House. His Excellency also doubts whether their provision would have much effect on the quality of the meat offered for sale, as people who are not afraid to run the risk of prosecution for stealing cattle will not be deterred by the penalty they would incur in addition for killing them in an unlicensed place.

(Sgd.) Robt. Johnstone,
Asst. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary to the
Jamaica Agricultural Society.

Inspector General's Office,
12th January 1907.

No. 28/26.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 198/13488, dated 9th instant, I have the honour to state that the Police are aware that meat has been sold at the Slaughter House on Sundays for years past—the Contractor for meat to the troops goes as near to his Contract as possible; but there are always some scraps left.

2. The Officials at the Slaughter House are most careful about the condition of the meat sold, and, on the slightest suspicion that the meat is tainted, it is at once taken down the Harbour and thrown into the sea.

(Sgd). A. E. Kershaw,
Inspector General.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.

Office of the Kingston General Commissioners.
Victoria Market 6th February, 1907.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 966/513 of the 2nd instant, calling attention to the fact that your letter No. 197/13488 of the 9th ultimo, in reference to the alleged practice of selling meat at the Slaughter House on Sundays, and to the non-destruction of condemned livers on one occasion.

2. In reply I have the honour to state for the information of the Governor that I replied to your letter on the 14th ultimo, and it must have got destroyed. I cannot supply you with a copy of my letter, as all Books and Vouchers were burnt at 24 Church Street, in the Fire on the 14th January, but I will re-state the information therein given viz.—that no meat is sold inside the Slaughter House premises on Sundays, but that it appears to be the practice when cattle are slaughtered on that day for the Military Authorities or for the Shipping, for the Butchers to dispose of any surplus meat by sale, (wholesale), outside the Slaughter Yard; *the Commissioners have no authority outside their premises*—and that with reference to the non-destruction of condemned livers the Commissioners take every precaution to prevent all condemned Meat from being stolen, before it is destroyed, but that the Commissioners received through the Deputy Inspector General a letter from Mr. Fursdon some weeks ago, in which it was stated that he (Mr. Fursdon) knew on reliable authority that a piece of condemned liver had been offered for sale. Enquiry was made on the receipt of the Deputy Inspector General's Minute, but as the letter was vague, the name of the "reliable authority" not being given, nor the date of the occurrence stated, it was impossible to arrive at a satisfactory result, and the Deputy Inspector General was so informed.

3. As all Cattle slaughtered on Sundays are inspected by the Inspector employed for that purpose precisely as they are inspected on other days, I do not think that any diseased meat is allowed to be issued on Sundays.

(Sgd). R. S. Haughton,
Managing Commissioner

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary,
Kingston.

Government Inspector of Stock.—2. Re Government Inspector of Stock as follows:—submitting 3 applications.

No. 618-1049.

24th January, 1907.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 23rd instant, I am directed to inform you that Mr. R. Rain has been appointed to act temporarily as Government Inspector of Stock and will inspect on the usual terms the Bulls you refer to. You should notify Mr. Rain when you will require his service.

J. R. Williams
Actg: Asst: Colonial Secretary.

He also submitted two other applications:—from E. L. Tavares, Kingston, forwarded by the Colonial Secretary and from E. E. Linton, Graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, Canada, of 7 years stand-

-ing who had also practised in Niagara Falls, U. S. A. and Newbury Port and who had landed in the island later to negotiate for the practice of J. M. Gibb, V. S.

It was resolved meantime not to make any recommendations and to ask the Governor for a reconsideration of the resolution of the Board with regard to the appointment of a Government Veterinary Surgeon passed at the December meeting but first to refer to the Live Stock Committee for further opinions and consideration of a scale of fees.

The Secretary was instructed to get the scales that were in operation elsewhere such as in Trinidad and Demerara.

Railway Rates on Provisions and Lumber.—3. Re Railway rates for ground provisions as follows :—

No. 812-945.

Sir, 30th January, 1907

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28th instant and in reply to this and with reference also to your minute concerning special rates for ground provisions on the Railway submitted to the Relief Committee and forwarded to this Office,—I am directed to send you copy of a letter to the Director of the Railway dated 28th instant. This I enclose.

The reduced rates for ground provisions and wet sugar on the Government Railway were published in the special Gazette on the 29th instant.

J. R. Williams
Actg : Asst : Colonial Secretary.

No. 753-245.

28th January, 1907.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Governor sanctions for a further period free transport by Railway of contributions of foodstuffs etc. given for the relief of sufferers by the earthquake and consigned to the Earthquake Relief Committee, provided that such transport does not impede the carriage of goods on which freight is paid. Please inform Station Agents.

2. I am also directed to inform you that free transport of destitute persons out of Kingston by train may be continued but that you may only issue free passes to such persons on the recommendation of the Earthquake Relief Committee.

3. I am also directed to inform you that the Governor sanctions the reduction of about 50 per cent of Railway freight on ground provisions and sugar in kerosine tins consigned to Kingston according to the scale of rates which accompanies your Minute dated 25.1.07.

(Sgd.) J. R. Williams.
Actg : Asst : Colonial Secretary.

The Director of Railway.
Kingston P. O.

The Secretary stated that the Railway had reduced the rate on native lumber twenty-five per cent.

Trade between Canada and West Indies.—4. Re Trade between Canada and West Indies, being correspondence that the Governor had

received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies forwarded by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies.

Prize Holdings Competition.—The Secretary submitted reports of the Judges on the awards made in St. Ann, Manchester and Trelawny and he asked the Board to confirm the awards, and the special prizes awarded for specially deserving circumstances in connection with the holdings.

After discussion it was agreed to do so and the Secretary was directed to publish the reports.

With regard to the arrangements for next year the Secretary said that Mr. Fawcett and himself were agre d that it would be preferable to take St. Mary, St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland where there would be Instructors at work and they would then each have one parish to work up in connection with the holdings, but Mr. Cradwick had strongly pointed out that he had already prepared Westmoreland and Hanover for the Competition and they were expecting it there so that any change would be inadvisable. It was therefore arranged that the Competition should take place next year in St. Mary, Westmoreland and Hanover, but Mr. Cradwick was to be asked in future not to state definitely beforehand what parishes would be taken until the Board decided.

West India Agricultural Conference.—The Secretary submitted letters re West India Agricultural Conference from Sir Daniel Morris and the Colonial Secretary's Office with regard to the arrangements of the Conference, and also resolutions from the representatives to the Conference on board the S. S. "Port Kingston," and from the Barbados Agricultural Society expressing thanks and appreciation for the kindness and hospitality bestowed on their representatives at the West India Agricultural Conference by the Board of Agriculture, the Agricultural Society and the Reception Committee.

Secretary's Report.—The Secretary submitted reports as to his work since the last Board Meeting. He had submitted the following Minute to the Board by letter and they had agreed to the request of the Governor. He had accordingly engaged Mr John Stewart, a Journalist from Perthshire, Scotland, (who had been in the island for 18 months and who had been highly recommended,) for two months as an assistant. This was confirmed.

FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Governor would be glad to know if the Society would be willing at the present emergency to allow the Relief Committee to have the services of Mr. John Barclay, the Society's Secretary, to be fully at the Committee's disposal for a limited period, Mr. Barclay being replaced as Secretary by a new Secretary temporarily employed, who would be paid by the Relief Committee, but whose whole time would be at the service of the Society and the Board of Agriculture. It is not now contemplated that Mr. Barclay would be diverted from his proper duties for more than two months.

(Sgd.) H. Clarence Bourne,
for the Governor.

16th February, 1907.

Instructors.—The Secretary said that as the Government had not increased the grant the division of the island into six districts and the engagement of two new Instructors so that Mr. Cradwick could act as Supervisor, could not be carried through. Mr. Fawcett and himself had drawn up suggestions which had already been submitted to the

Board. These were: that Mr. Palache should devote his whole time to the Instructorship and receive £300 a year to cover salary and travelling expenses and that an Instructor be appointed for St. Catherine to be overlooked by Mr. Cradwick. There were three applicants for this.

Mr. Bourne said that he observed that £1,080 had been set down as the amount received from Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co., but that this amount was wrong and that the sum was £850. At any rate that was what the Crown Agents had deducted from Elder Dempster & Co.'s subsidy.

It was resolved to hold the matter of the appointment for St. Catherine over, until it was known what was the actual amount available for Instructors.

Reports of Instructors since December were submitted. The Secretary stated that he had carefully gone through these and had found them satisfactory.

New Branches.—Applications for affiliation were submitted from Santa Cruz Mountains and Pedro Agricultural Societies and these having complied with the regulations were duly affiliated.

Live Stock.—The Secretary submitted reports concerning the Society's live stock;

1. That the Stallion "Sir Gerald" had been removed from St. Andrew to Maggotty, St. Elizabeth with Mr. J. D. Mennell as Stud Master.
2. That the Bull "Henbury Favourite" with Mr. R. L. Young, Tobolski, was in good health and was receiving as many cows as he could take so that fees will accrue from this Bull.
3. He submitted a report from Mr. Lewis, Mandeville, on the Bull "Henbury Beau" in which it was stated that he refused to allow small handbills or posters to be out through the parish with his name as studmaster, to make it known in Manchester that the Bull was standing for service at Brumalia. As the rules required studmasters to facilitate outside services as far as possible it was agreed to ask Mr. Muirhead to take charge of the Bull. Mr. Muirhead agreed if the Board was anxious for him to do so.

The Secretary was instructed to act accordingly.

Time of Meeting.—The Chairman said that owing to the alteration in the arrival of the train on the Port Antonio section whereby the train formerly arriving at 11.45 and to suit which the hour of the Board had been fixed at 11.30 now arrived at 12.20 Dr. Pringle and Mr. Simmonds would not be able to attend the meetings of the Board in time; he therefore asked whether it would suit members to fix the hour at 12.30.

It was agreed to discuss this matter again at next meeting and meantime the Secretary was instructed to write the Director of the Railway to see if the change made was likely to be permanent.

New Members.—The following new members were elected:—T. P. Leyden, Newark, Spur Tree; David Marchalleck, Morant Bay; C. Bache, Wiigum, Baracoa; Captain Otto Sverdrup, Baracoa; F. W. Oates & Co., 25 Toronto St., Toronto, Canada; M. Malcolm, Knockalva, Ramble; E. C. Clarke, Solicitor, Chapelton; J. W. Pattinson, Gayle.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.—DEC. 1906.

The usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, 4 Port Royal Street, on Thursday, 20th December at 11.30 a.m. Present:—Hon. Dr. Pringle, C.M.G., Vice-President, presiding; Hons. W. Fawcett, L. J. Bertram and George McGrath, the Very Rev. Father Collins, Messrs. R. Craig, E. W. Muirhead and the Secretary, John Barclay.

Estimates: The Secretary presented the Office and Finance Committee Report on the Estimates for 1907-08 containing their recommendations. Mr. Craig moved and Mr. Muirhead seconded the adoption of the Report.

Mr. McGrath moved seconded by Mr. Craig:—"That the Government be asked for a grant of £1,400 for the use of the Jamaica Agricultural Society for their next financial year, the present grant being £1,250."

This was unanimously passed and the Secretary was directed to send on the Resolution to the Governor together with a copy of the Report of the Committee.

Veterinary Surgeon.—On the motion of Mr. Craig seconded by Mr. Muirhead the following motion was passed:—"That in the opinion of this Society the time has arrived when the services of a qualified Veterinary Surgeon should be at the disposal of the Government."

The Secretary was directed to forward this Resolution to the Governor.

Office.—The Secretary read letter from the Manager of the Government Savings Bank stating that with reference to the Society's letter informing him that they will continue the present tenancy on a monthly arrangement, a month's notice to be given by either party, he had to ask the Society to be so good as to reconsider the terms arrived at and rent the portion of the building now occupied by them on a yearly tenancy as they had done in past years.

The Board decided that they could not reconsider their decision.

Shorthorn Bulls.—The opinions of the Live Stock Committee on Dr. Gibb's account for the keep of the two Shorthorn Bulls presented by Sir Alfred Jones to the Governor were read and after discussion the Secretary was instructed to pay it with certain reductions.

Meat Inspection.—The Secretary submitted letter from the Colonial Secretary's Office asking for instances regarding the alleged sale of unwholesome meat. Mr. Fursdon said that it was within his knowledge that condemned meat was sold on Sunday at the Slaughter House and the Secretary was instructed to reply to this effect.

Duty on Breeding Stock Imported.—The Secretary read letter from the Colonial Secretary with regard to duty on imported stock, stating that he was directed to enquire how the Society proposed to distinguish between live animals imported for breeding and those imported for other purposes and what tariff they proposed to apply to such as were imported both for breeding and other purposes. The letter was referred to the Live Stock Committee for reply.

Cargo Space on Direct Line Steamers.—The Secretary submitted the report of the Committee on the cargo space on the Direct Line Steamers and to which the Committee had been authorised to send on a direct reply to the Goverment. The Report is as follows:—The Office and Finance Committee met on Friday, 30th November, to consider the estimates for 1907-08, but first considered the matter of the telegram from Sir Alfred Jones to the Governor, regarding the unfilled cargo space on the S.S. "Port Kingston" and the S.S. "Port Henderson": which was referred by the Government to the Board of Management who in turn referred it to a Committee consisting of Hon. Dr. Pringle, Mr. Craig and Mr. Muirhead. Mr. Craig only being present he asked the members of the Finance Committee to consider the matter with him, which they did. The Secretary reported that he had written the agent of Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co. asking the cold storage capacity of those steamers and the amount of cold storage space offered to the public on the voyages in question. The Agent replied on the 26th November, stating that the matter had been referred to Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co. for the explanation. As these particulars were essential to any report the Committee might make, it was felt that an interim report only could be sent to the Governor until the same were obtained.

The Secretary also submitted a letter from Mr. Muirhead, a copy of which he was instructed to attach to his interim report.

The Secretary further submitted a statement he had made up from the manifests of steamers taking shipments of fruit to the United Kingdom covering the week before and the week after the voyages of the "Port Kingston" and the "Port Henderson" in question from which it was seen (1) On October 17th the Elders & Fyffes steamer "Zent" cleared by the United Fruit Company and consigned to Elders & Fyffes, Bristol, took 14,333 packages of oranges and grapefruit; (2) On October 25th, the "Port Kingston" in question cleared by the Agent of the Elder Dempster Co., destination Bristol took 3,872 packages of oranges and grapefruit; (3) a week later on November 1st, the S.S. "Barranca" cleared by the United Fruit Company, destination Bristol, took 12,732 packages of oranges and grapefruit, consigned to Messrs. Elders & Fyffes; (4) On November 8th, the "Port Henderson" in question cleared by the Agent of Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co., destination Bristol, took only 2,241 packages of oranges and grapefruit; (5) Six days later on the 14th of November the "Nicoya" cleared by United Fruit Company, destination Bristol, took 14,074 packages of oranges and grapefruit consigned to Messrs. Elders & Fyffes.

The steamers consigned to Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Bristol, took also larger quantities of bananas than the Elder Dempster & Co., Direct steamers.

The Secretary was instructed to send these particulars to the Government and to state that the information regarding cold storage might probably be obtained later from the agent of Messrs. Elder Dempster in which case the Committee would resume consideration of the matter. Meantime the Committee desired to express their regret that they were unable to supply complete material for a reply to Sir Alfred Jones.

The report was tabled.

The following letters from the Colonial Secretary's Office were submitted:—

Joint Committee for Instructors.—Acknowledging the receipt of letters of the 21st September and 6th October in regard to the position of Agricultural Instructors as public officers and stating that if the Board of Agriculture and the Jamaica Agricultural Society were agreed, the Governor approved of the proposed Joint Committee dealing with the actual direction of the work of the Instructors on the understanding that the Government's control over its own officers remained unimpaired and its right to utilize their services for special work was recognised.

The Secretary was directed to write the Board of Agriculture and say that the Instructors Committee would be glad to co operate with a Committee of their Board in regulating the work of the Instructors.

Tobacco Trade International Exhibition.—Transmitting copy of letters from the Proprietor of the periodical "Tobacco" which stated that the Third International Tobacco Exhibition would be held in London in April, 1907, and asking for the names of firms which should receive a Prospectus. A discussion followed and Mr. Craig said that there was not sufficient tobacco grown in Jamaica to create an export market for tobacco as practically all that was grown could be sold locally. He spoke under correction but that had been his experience. When in England recently he saw Mr. Chalmers, the Tobacco Expert, and had a long conversation with him and he seemed to think that growers in Jamaica could produce tobacco profitably at 3d per lb. but his experience in that matter was that he did not think that the actual expenses of growing tobacco were less than 6d per lb.

The Secretary stated that the Secretary of the Merchants Exchange to whom the letters from the Tobacco Trade Exhibition were referred was dealing with the matter.

Ariba Cocoa.—Submitting letter from the Director of Public Gardens as follows:—"I have the honour to inform you I have at last after many disappointments been successful with the kind help of His Majesty's Consul at Guayaquil now obtained several plants of the Ariba Cocoa. This cocoa was quoted in a London Market Circular dated 2nd November, at 80s per cwt., while Jamaica was 68s. I believe the value of Ariba Cocoa would be found to depend on its being a better variety, probably nearly related to that with a white bean called here Criollo Cocoa. It remains to be proved by experiment whether Ariba Cocoa can be grown anywhere in Jamaica so as to preserve its character and maintain its health. I am planting a few at Castleton and at Hope Gardens and I am distributing two plants to each of the following cocoa planters;—P. H. Bather, New Hall; J. V. Branday, Platfield; E. R. F. Burgess, Mt. Eagle; Hon.

J. V. Calder, Worthy Park ; D. Campbell, Rose Hall ; Hon. H. Cork, Burlington ; R Craig, Savoy ; A. N. Dixon, New Ground ; J. W. Hill, Vinery ; E. E. C. Hossack, Iter Boreale ; Hon. C. E. Isaacs, Water Valley ; H. Q. Levy, Huntley ; J. Lockett, Troja ; J. H. McPhail, Tulloch ; M. Roberts, Snanton ; H. J. Rudolf, Hampstead ; Hon. R. P. Simmonds, Quebec ; W. Turriff, Golden Grove ; A. C. Westmoreland. Gibraltar ; J. O. Mason.

The letter was tabled.

Agricultural Conference :—A letter from Sir Daniel Morris was submitted with reference to the West India Agricultural Conference stating that he would be glad to have the assistance of the Board and any suggestions that the Board may make with regard to subjects to be brought before the Conference and forwarding extracts from the "Agricultural News" giving further particulars of the Conference.

This was referred to the local Organising Committee for the Conference.

Prize Holdings.—The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Cradwick stating that there were so many entries in the Prize Holdings Competition in St. Ann that he and Mr. Arnett could not finish the report in time for the meeting, but they would present the returns in time for the next meeting.

South Devon Cattle.—A letter from Mr. Ventresse re South Devon cattle was submitted and the Secretary's reply thereto approved of.

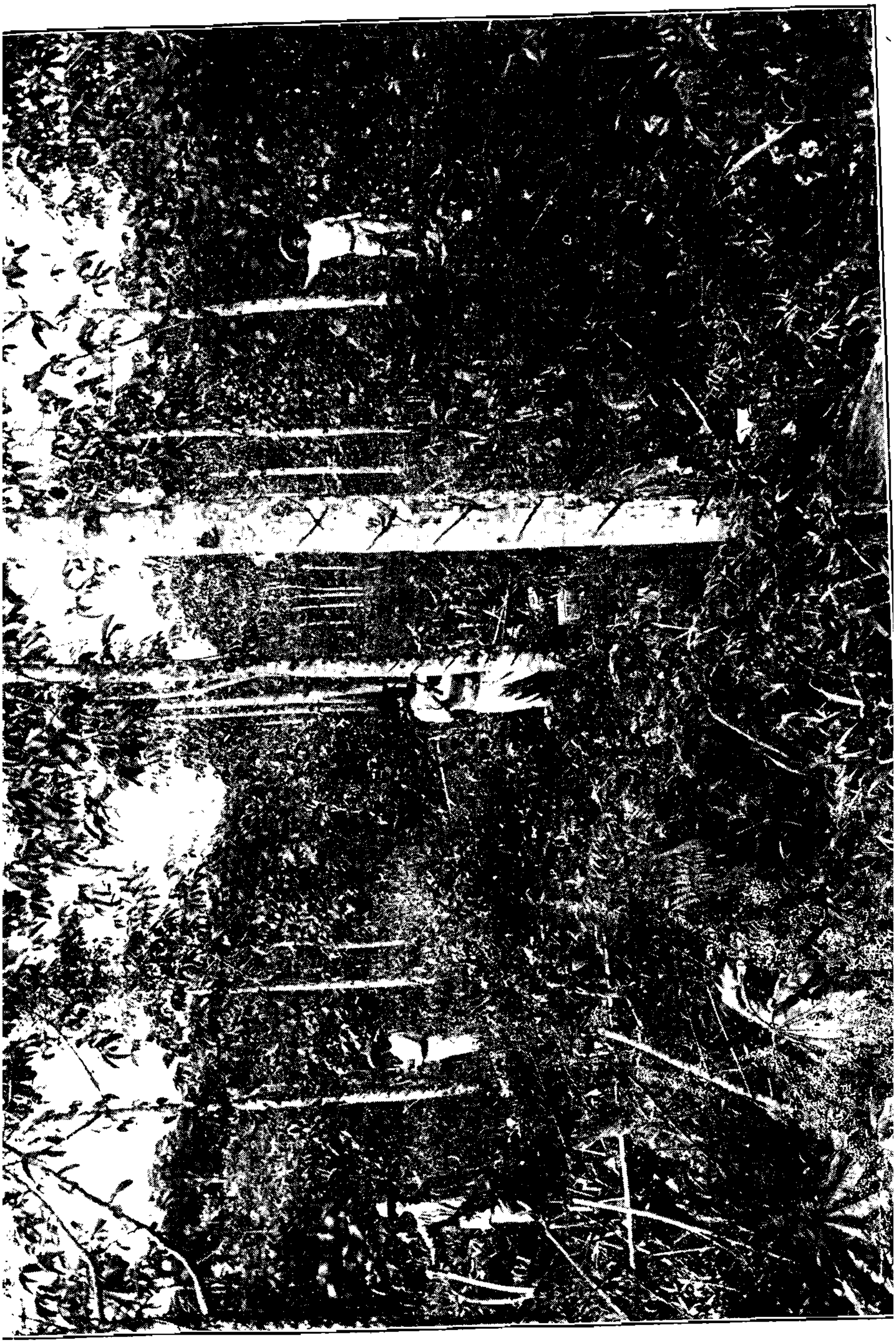
Instructors.—The Instructors reports were submitted.

New Members:—The following were elected members of the Society :—H. M. Brandon, Kingston ; W. G. Churchman, Jr. La fe Naguabo, Porto Rico ; F. L. Myers, Port Royal Street, Kingston ; Wm. Earle, Gregory Park ; Col. Dalrymple Hay, Camp ; Major Marescaux, Cherry Gardens, Half-Way-Tree ; Henry Granger, Cartagena, Columbia.

The Meeting adjourned until 24th January 1907.

Small Settlers, Instructors & the Agricultural Society.

The magnificent bloom on the coffee trees in the months of February and March throughout St. Ann, Manchester and St. Elizabeth, together with a few scattered showers in February and March in the middle of a long drought has gladdened the hearts of coffee growers. The blossom was "a sight to see," and as these are also orange growing districts the appearance of heavy and early blossom on all orange trees was very satisfactory, and if the promise of a great fruition is fulfilled, these will form a good set off to the shortage in other crops and the falling off in condition of cattle caused by the drought. We have observed that wherever heavy mulching is carried through on small settlers' cultivations the blossoms set well into a heavy bearing of berries but where the ground is exposed and hard there is much dropping of the young fruit. The coffee crop is a great stand-by in all the red-soil parishes and if the Agricultural Instructors had done nothing else but check the general abandonment of small settlers' coffee cultivations they would have been of great value to the island ; but they have done more : they have succeeded in inspiring some hope and courage in coffee growers, and new planting has been done. (The quick spread of cocoa planters is also due largely to their efforts.) There is no crop that can take the place of coffee in these parishes : at least we know of none and can find none so appropriate. On the black soils of Clarendon and Trelawny there are bananas and the accompanying cocoa as well as coffee, and there is also sugar cane, but neither banana, cocoa, nor cane thrive naturally on the red soils. And now when the Instructors have got a footing with the people and are welcomed and listened to, and visits even solicited—a tremendous difference from the time the Agri-



Tapping Castilloa Rubber on Hacienda del Corte, in Mexico.

cultural Society first commenced its operations—we see the good effect of persistence, patience and perseverance, and the good policy of having a definite object in view and working towards it steadily. This is specially necessary in dealing with people who are too easily discouraged and who require to be stimulated and encouraged to persevere under depressing conditions. Yet we have only laid the foundation now of getting into the position of really having influence with the people and we plead for a further steady, unswerving continuity in our agricultural policy. It is not with products with booming prices that our work should always lie; it is more—or at least as much—with those products which we know are valuable to the island, that are indispensable to people in certain districts, products that the world's markets must always have, and will always take of good quality and such quality we must try to provide. Our work lies as much with such a product as coffee, suffering from depressed prices and from scant cultivation and especially as we possess peculiarly suitable conditions to produce the best quality with our red soils and cool equable upland climates, —conditions which no other product can suit as well or we could almost say can suit at all. Settlers coffee has had a name for carelessness in production but in a recent competition for the best sample of coffee for prizes offered by the "Daily Telegraph" newspaper, the merchants who judged the samples expressed the greatest surprise that small settlers could produce such fine coffee. So it has been shown that our people are capable of taking pains in cultivating their coffee and of carefully preparing it for the market.

Coffee trees have been neglected: they have been left unpruned, and unweeded, with live stock even pasturing through the pieces until they have become like little jungles. There were miles of such lands in Manchester, St. Elizabeth and St. Ann with scarcely one carefully tended cultivation intervening to break the monotony of neglect and indifference. Yet we know, within a few years, of coffee pieces having been taken up through the efforts of our Instructors, having been pruned, and cut back almost to the ground to allow new stems to grow up, and these bushes, within two years, bearing in good fashion and continuing to be well kept. It is the business of the Agricultural Society to check the fits of depression which so readily fall upon the people; to advise them; to instruct them; to put heart in them. It is an organisation that has taken long to build up: it has had to fight, to argue: to struggle with lack of means, and yet largely due to its efforts the attitude of the public towards agriculture has changed from indifference and cynicism to interest, and a measure of support. From month to month and from year to year little advance might be noticed but when we look back over a period of ten years the advance is indisputably great. It is manifest in many and various ways; it is manifest in the taking up of old coffee pieces, and the planting of new ground; in the steady planting of cocoa; in the successful formation of local agricultural societies: in the desire to hold small country shows; in the greatly increased interest in the Prize Holdings Competition, (which is proof that the old spirit of distrust of the purposes of this competition, i. e. that it was some dodge of the Government to find out the taxable capacity of the people has largely passed away); in the desire to have good stock as exemplified in the freer importation of fowls, pigs, bulls and cows (and that in spite of almost prohibitive duties); and the now general demand for good animals to breed from, as proved by the office statistics of the Society; in the wish for selected seed for planting; in the general correspondence on

agricultural matters; and in the demand for books and papers on agriculture. It must be borne in mind we have not had continuity in our efforts. For several years the Society was almost moribund, our grant cut down so that we were obliged to use up our savings for a special purpose and our work curtailed. In spite of that we struggled along but the work was thrown three years behind. Local Agricultural Societies have come into existence often with but little help from the Parent Society, instead, their enthusiasm and their desire for instruction has been chilled by an apparent lack of interest, in that attention could not be paid to their appeals for visits from Instructors through want of means.

Prize Holdings Competition.

We have sent out posters through Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary advertising the competition for best kept small holdings and the Instructors in these parishes are now beginning their preliminary work in connection with it, explaining the details; what is necessary to be done, and how the judging is carried through. It is proposed to begin the judging in Hanover on the 12th of August and to take a month so that the judges will not require to hurry through as formerly but be able to make explanations on the spot, to point out defects, and give information and instruction. In fact the judging is always meant to be an opportunity for instruction under the best auspices but owing to special work always being required to be done and taking the Instructors off the work laid down for them and also to the difficulty in obtaining competent judges—Mr. Cradwick being required to do every parish—the competition has never been carried through under the conditions arranged for it and expected, so as to make the best of it possible. All the Instructors for instance—that is the Society's Instructors as well as Mr Cradwick—have been taken from their parishes during the month of January to assist in the Teachers Course at Hope Gardens, there not being a sufficient staff at Hope to do this work. Now January is exactly one of the best months to take one of the parishes in the competition. This year—the competition for 1906-07—was carried through under the worst conditions possible the dates for the judging having to be changed twice. Not only was there the Teachers Course at Hope but there was the West India Agricultural Conference and then—the Earthquake. Still the judging was carried through but not in the deliberate, effective way proposed and to be desired. Therefore the success in this competition so far has been better than we should expect. The conditions which have existed from the beginning—the continual changing and chopping—and lack of decision in policy are not calculated to impress the small settlers in the way we desire. The competition is important enough that no other matter that we have any control over whatsoever should be allowed to stand in the way of its being thoroughly carried out with every circumstance made favourable.

Drought—Mulching the best safeguard.

Over the whole of the island with the exception of the parishes of St. Mary and Portland a severe drought has prevailed since the second and third week of November last. Its effects would have been very much more destructive if it had not been broken by a week of showers in Feb-

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ruary. It has affected stock and cultivations very badly and it is all the more regrettable because at the beginning of November there was every promise of most bountiful crops in almost every line. Bananas have been the chief sufferers and our expectations of a very much larger total of exports by the end of the financial year (31st March) than last year has not been fulfilled. Still we exported 15,847,590 stems against 14,748,142 stems the preceding year. Bananas however are comparatively scarce and the bunches short. As from March till June is the banana planters harvest there is a great disappointment and the prospects for next year beginning 1st April are not promising just now.

So far as cultivations are concerned the great safeguard against the effects of drought is heavy mulching. While this is quite possible in small settlers cultivations it is not so easily carried out over 100 or 200 acres. It would be a heavy expense to get the material and apply it but if it is thought to be an insurance against the almost total loss of a banana crop. in the months of high prices the expense should be calculated against the estimated loss. We ourselves looked for drought this year and many others had the same feeling and when dry weather comes in sharply at the end of the October rains and continues till December it may be almost certainly set down that January, February, and March—our usual dry weather months—will be very dry. If the mulching is done, and good showers do come after all in January, the mulching is not a total loss: indeed it is not a loss at all for it has still its manurial value, and it will prevent that profuse growth of weeds which always comes on after rains following on a spell of dry weather. Mulching is an insurance against lost by drought.

Arbour Day.

We should not let any business, private or public, so absorb our attention that we should fail to remember Victoria or Empire Day, the 24th of May which is now observed over the greater part of the British Empire as "Arbour Day." It was a beautiful idea thus to commemorate the late Queen Victoria and it has the additional virtue of being both wise and profitable. This year although in Kingston we may not hold any public function as in the past yet every school in the Colony and more especially those with school gardens should plant some useful tree. Other cultivators who have lands of their own, whether of large or small extent, should take the opportunity and devote the day to planting some trees out of the ordinary run of their planting operations. In the case of schools with gardens two eucalyptus trees could be planted at the entrance. These grow tall and graceful and fulfil a fourfold purpose :— they are quick growing ; they are healthy trees in the neighbourhood of houses ; they bear blossoms which bees eagerly frequent for nectar ; and their timber is some of the finest that can be grown.

The eucalyptus family says an American exchange are famous honey-yielders in their native home, Australia, and Tasmania, and, to a certain extent, in California, where thirty or forty species have been introduced out of a total of nearly two hundred recognized species. The eucalypts are all either tropical or sub-tropical in their habitat, and to a great degree are drought-resisters. Perhaps no tree is better entitled to be largely planted for its lumber, which is equal to the best mahogany, redwood, oak, or rosewood, in appearance, and excelled by none in tensile strength and durability ; but it has a great advantage

over all rivals in that it grows with wonderful rapidity, and this. too, where other trees fail for lack of water. The rate of growth in California of the blue gum of Tasmania, over a term of years, has been determined to be 19 inches per month. The blue gum grows to a great height, and is an excellent honey-bearer. It is known to botanists as *Eucalyptus globulus*. The leaves of the Eucalyptus appear to be scanty but there are species not so well known as yet, which have a fine umbrageous foliage of large leaves. The seeds of eucalyptus are extremely small—almost incredibly so. The seeds are easily grown, and in six weeks are ready for transplanting. Both Eucalyptus trees and young plants may however be had from the Director of Public Gardens who has a number available for distribution.

Many an entrance way to a Great House could be beautified by planting an avenue of trees, and where stock are about, trees that they would not graze could be selected such as Cedar, and Camphor. There are of course many other classes of trees both ornamental and useful which might be used for planting : Fruit trees like Orange, Grapefruit, Pear, Breadfruit, etc. ; Timber trees like Cedar, Mahoe, Bullet ; Fodder trees like Ramoon, Breadnut, Guango, Bas-Cedar, (if you have not these in your pastures) ; or Economic trees like Pimento, Camphor and Rubber. The scope and variety is wide—but no matter what the selection, *it is to be hoped that some tree or trees will be planted commemorative* of the late Queen Victoria on Arbour Day 1907.

In the great city of Berlin, as also in most of the rural villages of Germany, one of the most charming features of the landscape is the uniform planting of trees along the streets and highways. Only one kind of tree is planted on any particular street in the city of Berlin. One has only to see these magnificent avenues of trees to become quickly converted to this style of planting. The effect is certainly very charming. There is one thing that surprised me very much as I toured about the streets of the capital city of Germany. There is never a tree missing, and all trees are uniform in size. It is not to be believed that no trees have ever died, and, of course, dead trees must have been replaced by living ones. One of the things that pleased me much was to note how many trees in the streets and along the roadsides were useful for other purposes than ornament. The linden is a very common tree in Germany, and, like the American linden, the European linden ranks high as a honey-producing tree. The honey-locust is also another very common tree. This often produces large quantities of nectar. There were other trees of like character. I think we can not urge too frequently the desirability of this practice. "*Gleanings in Bee Culture.*"

Coco-nuts

The Returns for our exports are made up for the Government financial year—that is from 1st April of one year to the 31st March following—so that when we quote figures for a year's imports or exports it is of course for the particular financial year mentioned—not from 1st January to 31st December of the year.

One of our steadiest and most dependable sources of income is from our exports of coco-nuts. Our best year was 1902—03 when we sent away 25,623,644 nuts to the value of £67,902. Then the hurricane of 1903 happened doing great damage not only by uprooting many thousands of trees, but twisting and breaking others and badly wrenching

still more But a steady planting had been going on before and many thousands of young trees were not tall enough to be badly hurt and these have been coming into bearing ever since, while some of the older trees which were only slightly damaged have recovered year by year. To the 31st March this year we exported 10,600,042 an increase over the year before of 3,499,088 nuts.

In old times when sugar reigned supreme there was little systematic planting of coco-nuts; even long after, the proper cultivation of coco-nuts on a large scale was not done as one regular substitute for sugar. Nuts were taken up at random and planted out in bananas or as boundaries and in odd corners at the sea-side and in a few cases as groves When set out in nurseries they were generally allowed to stay too long until the roots had grown through the husks into the ground and when the sprouted nuts were lifted these had to be broken off. When this is done it is a great set back to the growth. We do not think there was even any careful selection of seed as there is now. The value of planting the finest selected nuts from the finest bearing trees was not known or properly understood or appreciated in those days. Ever since the hurricane of 1903 there has been a more systematic planting going on than before with more careful selection of seed, more careful preparation of the land, and more care taken while the young trees were growing. Everybody now criticises the young trees seen growing in grass pieces with cattle grazing so that the trees were eaten by the stock and thus their bearing was delayed and diminished. But we see comparatively little of that style of planting now. Planters are taking advantage of bananas as a cover crop. This is not an ideal system no doubt when we know how much the coco-nut likes the sun and breeze but it has so many advantages that these outweigh the drawbacks. The drawbacks are that the shade tends to make the trees grow tall and likely retards their bearing; but on the other hand there is a great economy in growing trees along with a paying crop so that the land is not unremunerative while the coco-nuts are coming on; the soil too, is regularly weeded and forked, and kept zealously free from the trespass of stock for the sake of the bananas and thus the coco-nuts participate in the care taken of the other crop. Then while the roots of the nuts strike deeper than the surface-rooting bananas they only interfere with the latter so far as their room is concerned. As the coco-nuts expand, bananas are gradually displaced until the graceful trees cast their long serrated leaves over all the land between and the field is left to the coco-nuts, by this time in full bearing and paying. Then what magnificent soil is left to the coco-nuts:—years of accumulations of banana trunks and—leaves have been forked in and on the final throwing up of the bananas there is a mass of such material to act as a deep mulch. Then too, it enables planting to be carried out on the fine lands necessary for bananas—not leaving the coco-nuts to be entirely planted on exposed hill-sides and in odd corners—producing regular and extensive groves The return from trees so cared for and so manured must be magnificent. Such coco-nut groves should be planted on the exposed sea-board where bananas are grown and used as a shelter-belt for the planting of cocoa and rubber through the bananas further back. If we looked upon bananas as a cover crop for such permanent cultivations as cocoa, coco-nuts and rubber we should have at once diversity and stability in our agricultural operations. That an appreciation of good seed nuts exists is shown by the demand for these: extra prices have been paid to get nuts from San Blas in

Central America, nuts which fetch the highest price in the markets. It may be the local conditions there which make the good nuts but it is possible that the characteristics are in the nut itself and will be perpetuated, given good conditions, just as animals impress their characteristics on their descendants, when taken from their native environment. Then in some parts of th island there are trees bearing large nuts of various types which are in demand as seed nuts in other parts of the island. Many orders for these have passed through this office.

We have not been much troubled with disease: there seems to be something in the air of the island which appears to prevent the spreading of disease such as becomes epidemic in other countries, whether insular or continental. Certain diseases of coco-nut trees, however, do exist here of which bud-rot is the most threatening. Comparative immunity from disease has bred in the nature of planters an optimism which is hard to assail with argument; but surely we should not think we are entitled or privileged by Nature to such immunity. Other places have had an equal immunity for centuries and then have been devastated by disease. We ought not to run risks but instead exercise the due care expected from thoughtful agriculturists. However, we are afraid little action has been taken by planters to watch for this bud-rot and check it on the appearance of anything like the symptoms which have been already described several times in this *Journal*, (See page 267 1906) We give below an account of a simple plan, carried out on supposed cases of bud-rot, which was successful in dealing with the disease. It is easier than the crude method of burning the tops of the trees. (The undoubted success of this burning method—when the trees are not scorched to death—suggests the use of that excellent fungicide, charcoal : has it ever been tried ?) The application of Bordeaux mixture is the now recognized and approved method of treating bud-rot and the way to make Bordeaux mixture has been published here several times (See *Journal* page 231 1906.) But our coco-nut industry is too valuable to be treated lightly or carelessly. On the yellowing or stripping of leaves being observed more freely than is natural a close examination of the tree shou'd be made and especially by sending some one up to examine the bud or " cabbage" of the tree: if there is a brown and slimy appearance, with the matter giving off a bad odour there is need for immediate action. A note of the symptoms might be sent to us with such details as—1st the location of the tree:—if it be a dry hill side, or by the sea-side, or in a valley ; 2nd the kind of soil; 3rd whether the other trees around are perfectly healthy and bearing well. At Yallahs there are trees planted closely on black soil not far from the sea-side—the black soil being the alluvium from the stream which passes through the property. This soil is inclined to be marshy. Several trees there suddenly drooped their leaves which grew quickly dry and rotten until there was nothing left but the crown leaves around the cabbage. A small bar of common yellow soap and a couple of handfuls of salt were placed in the bud of each of them and in a short time the trees took on a fresher appearance : new leaves were put out and in two months these trees looked as healthy as any of those in the neighbourhood—while here and there stood blackened stems of trees which had been quite killed by the disease, whatever it was, before this plan had been tried. The symptoms appeared to be just those which are observed in bud-rot. This treatment cannot yet be set down definitely as a cure for bud-rot till the chief

symptoms (the disease of the "cabbage") have been observed to be present. The following letter shows the necessity for concerted action on the part of our planters to investigate the diseases which attack our coco-nuts, and the letter is typical of the kind we would like *re* these diseases :—

Elmwood,
Priestman's River.

Sir,

Re Disease in growing Coco-nut Trees—Some years ago Mr. Cradwick paid this property two visits and Mr. Fawcett also came to inspect some dying Coco-nut Trees. No advice of any effect was able then to be given nor any cause assigned. Those trees, except a few, were blown down in 1902. at 10 years of age. An adjoining piece of 1,590 trees planted 1902 is now being attacked by the same disease. I give you all particulars I can and should be glad of what advice you can give me. I find (1) the first symptom visible is a slight brown discolouration on the back of the centre rib of the heart limb; (2) As each limb appears it is more and more discoloured; (3) A brown stain appears in spots upon the bole of the trees; (4) Later a clear gum appears in great gouts and hardens on each discoloured spot on the bole; (5) All the outer limbs of the tree begin to droop down; (6) The young blossoms of the trees show signs of brown decay; (7) The whole spike of heart leaves leans over and finally droops right out of the tree; (8) The tree is dead. I have observed the following also: (1) The trees appear to die in patches of 3 or 4; (2) The trees never die on a hillside, not one; (3) The land where they die has in my case always been of a yellowish clay. I have tried the following: (1) Burning the trees as soon as perceived, but have never known a tree to recover; (2) I have cut down several trees; there is *no* decay at the root; (3) I have cut trees at the heart and find a circle of decay running long ways through each limb, and the white central undeveloped leaf is quite brown and decayed; (4) I have cut the tree just below the limbs and find no decay there. Is this bud-rot so called? If so, is there a remedy? This is a serious matter as I have already lost 25 trees partially dead or dead and there are as many as 1,000 trees in the neighbourhood liable to infection.

LEO. A. WATES

We have asked Mr. Cradwick to make an investigation of the coco-nut trees on the above property when he goes to Portland.

Meantime we have recommended the owner, (1) To send an intelligent boy up the trees attacked to examine and report on the condition of the bud or "cabbage."

(2) To drain two rows where trees are attacked. As he states they are never attacked on hillsides drainage at once suggests itself, but on the other hand he states trees attacked, when cut down and examined, have had apparently nothing wrong with their roots. Still although the roots themselves may not have shown symptoms of decay, they may yet have been absorbing deleterious acids from the soil the result of sour conditions through lack of drainage.

(3) To apply (a) a barrel of woodashes each to a dozen trees (b) a half barrel of lime to another dozen, both to include trees attacked.

(4) Do nothing to other trees attacked and report result in six weeks.

——:o:——

Drainage.—Our stiff soils above all things, require to be drained, and all need it; on low-lying soils, and those with a too retentive subsoil, no crop can mature properly where stagnant water lies either on or close to the surface. Stagnant water saturates the soil completely, to the exclusion of the air, which is quite as necessary to plants as water itself. Deleterious acids too are formed, but lime

In contrast with the above is the report received from Mr. Thomas Thornton, Barbados, through the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, on samples of Mr. Desporte's cotton from the same field, as follows: "I have the honour to report that I have carefully examined the sample of Sea Island Cotton received from Mr. James Briscoe which has been grown in Jamaica The sample is only of Medium quality. It is rather weak, and medium in length, fineness, and silkiness. It is also lacking in natural twist. We cannot say what would be its value on the market; to ascertain this, a sample should be submitted to the British Cotton Growing Association. There is no doubt great room for improving the quality, and in this direction, seed selection experiments similar to those which are being carried out here will be likely to prove of very great service. In reference to information about cotton cultivation in Barbados, that can be obtained by referring to the 'A.B.C. of Cotton Planting' and the 'Agricultural News.'"

We may say that the seeds supplied by us to Mr. Desporte for his experimental acre was selected Sea Island seed imported from St. Vincent through the Imperial Commissioner. Now these conflicting reports are not calculated to give confidence to prospective cotton-growers, but Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland who have reported as above, are otton Brokers in the heart of the cotton manufacturing district of England. Mr. Thornton, we presume, is a cotton-grower in Barbados.

Owing to dry weather no March planting could be done this year, but we hope that some will be done in April. If planters are not prepared for this we should like a good many to think well over making a start in August to plant as near the 15th of that month as the weather will allow. We have some Caravonica seed and abundance of Sea Island seed available. Both of these also make nice garden plants and we should be glad to forward a few seeds free to those who take interest in their gardens. All school gardens should certainly have some.

South Devon Bulls.

A Correspondent has been opposing the idea of South Devon cattle participating in the premiums offered by the Society for that breed, Red Polls and Shorthorns. Five South Devon Bulls have been imported, so far, since the premiums were offered, by the following:—C. L. Walker, two; C. A. Nunes, one; Mrs. Roper, one: A. L Keeling, one; G. W. Fitzherbert, one; but three of these only have been entered for the premiums. The following Shorthorn Bulls have been imported:—M. M. Alexander one Dairy Shorthorn, now sold to Robert Craig Esq. of Chapelton; A. C L. Martin, one Lincolnshire Red Shorthorn; besides two Dairy Shorthorns presented to the Society by Sir Alfred Jones. No Red Polls have been imported. Our Correspondent seized hold upon a presumably vague sentence in a description of South Devons published in the *Journal* reading it that South Devons were absolutely useless for crossing purposes, whereas the sentence simply meant that South Devons could not be improved by crossing with other breeds, i.e. pure breeds, but it did not mean at all that South Devons would not be as successful as other pure breeds in crossing upon mixed breeds such as we have here. Any bull of standard pure breeds of cattle proves potential when crossed with mixed breeds of cows. Our correspondent, in another letter, now returns to the charge, and says he is pre

put on after draining tends to neutralise the effect of these; it sweetens the soil and makes valuable plant-food available. Draining does not take away too much water from land, but sufficient is left for the growth of plants leaving space for the circulation of the air as well as the water. In going through the soils to the drains water percolates through quickly, leaving behind it valuable plant-fo d, so that heavy downpours are not a curse—as is often the case here—but a blessing on drained land. Some nitrogen however is lost in drainage; but it is in part made up for by that which is left during the passage of the water. In dry weather drained land generally comes off the best especially if the surface is cultivated; it does not shrink, crack, and expose the roots to the heat of sun and hot winds, like undrained soil, and is sweeter and better in every respect.

Cotton Growing in Jamaica.

Jamaica has not taken up the growing of Sea Island Cotton very seriously. The first year we tried experiments. they were exceedingly successful, so far as growth and returns were concerned. The acreage was not large but was sufficient to show that our soils would grow cotton exceedingly well and produce large crops. The next year those who first tried the small acreages planted larger fields. Then the cotton worm came upon them and before Paris Green was imported and could be used this pest got a good hold, and afterwards the expense of keeping it down with Paris Green became too great. This year only a few have attempted further trials and only one on a large scale. No cotton worms appeared and although we have had one of the severest droughts on record and the largest field was grown in the very driest district in Jamaica, the returns have been fairly successful. Sir Alfred Jones offered Gold and Silver Medals for the best trial cultivations not under one acre. Mr. L. G. Desporte, Industry, Half-way Tree, who is very enterprising, at the instance of Mr. Briscoe, the Agricultural Instructor, and ourselves, agreed to put in a trial acre. Although the seed was planted at the very end of the planting season, when the soil only received one rough turning over with the plough, and was then planted in holes made by the hoe, this cotton has grown in a most satisfactory manner. If planted three or four weeks earlier it would have done very much better, as the drought starting in November woud not have affected it at all. As it is it has been very little hurt and a good crop is being picked. A sample of Mr. Desporte's cotton was forwarded by Mr. Briscoe to Sir Alfred Jones at the latter's request to be valued by cotton brokers. The report is as follows:—Classification: Clean good colour, staple moderately fine, fair length and moderately strong. Price 1s 9d to 1s 10d per lb. Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co. wrote. "We must congratulate you on producing such cotton as in view of the Brokers' report you must consider it very satisfactory and it presents a most encouraging outlook for this industry in Jamaica." Mr. Lewis at Yallahs put in four acres on different kinds of soils. On the black soil which retains moisture, it has been successful, but on the gravelly sandy soil near the sea-shore the weather has been too dry for it. In a wet year the conditions and results would have been reversed. Mr. Lewis also tried some Caravonica Cotton which did well. These two enterprising gentlemen are recommended for the Gold and Silver Medals respectively.

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pared to establish the fact that South Devons have been tried in Jamaica and found wanting. This is what he might have said at first, together with furnishing proof of his assertion. All we can say is that some of the present importers are men who have tried South Devons before and it is not reasonable to suppose that they would try them again unless they had been satisfied with their first trial, and it will be noted that all those who have imported South Devons are well-known and successful penkeepers and their object is no doubt to increase the milk flow of their cows without lessening the beef qualities of their herds. South Devons are calculated to do this just as much as the better known Shorthorns. We first saw South Devons at the Royal Show of 1905 and were much taken by them. We publish the following letter which settles what the meaning of the article quoted was :—

London, W. C., February 26th 1907.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 4th our correspondent who contributed the original article says :

"To a Jamaica Subscriber—The paragraph alluded to by a Jamaican subscriber has by him been read mostly as I intended it to be. The question at issue however was not if other breeds or classes could be improved by Devon blood, but if the latter could be improved by an infusion from any other kind which I maintained it could not to any material extent

"Touching now herewith upon using the Devon Bull for miscellaneous crossing I should say it would answer for lots of cows where size and good milking qualities were the object for the sire is quite capable of leaving its characteristics on his descendents."

Yours faithfully,
A. W. STANTON,
Editor.

Oranges.

In the Cape Agricultural Journal for February there is an article giving some curious ideas and experience about the influence of the stocks on the fruit. The experiences described are certainly strange, and in part incomprehensible to our experience here. We have here oranges budded on all kinds of stocks :—Seville, Seville Sweet, Shaddock, and Rough Lemon, and if these have influenced the scion it has been in different types of growth and hardiness, but they have not had any noticeable influence on the fruit. We observe, however, one idea that is of special interest to us : in South Africa the Naval Orange has not been a success when budded on Seville stocks. The Naval Orange here has not been a general success, has been a shy bearer, and it is almost wholly grown on Seville stocks. Perhaps that is the reason.

Unexampled interest in exports has marked the opening of the South African fruit trade this season, largely owing, no doubt, to the prospects of an excellent demand resulting from the South African Products Exhibition, and, so far as the Cape is concerned, to the new regulations under which first class fruit is branded by the Government at no expense to the producer. In Natal also the spirit of enterprise is abroad among the fruit growers, and two news items of interest are that the Durban district fruit growers have decided to form a co-operative society for the purpose of exporting citrus fruits to London, and that the Maritzburg fruit growers have decided to send 5,000 cases of "naartjes" to London this season in an attempt to establish an export trade with England. "Naartje" is the South African name for Tangerine.

Preventing Decay in Fruit.

In previous Journals we quoted from the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal experiments made at Kew in the use of Formalin as an agent in preventing decay in fruit and asked that experiments might be carried out here with Formalin because if it was successful in keeping our fruit it would mean thousands of pounds in our pockets. No public notice has been taken of this at all. We however, carried through some simple experiments in this office with oranges and while we have not proved that there was any decided difference between fruit treated with Formalin and untreated fruit, we have discovered a most important point in connection with oranges which may mean a great deal to us. Of course the experiments were not carried through under shipping conditions, i.e., the fruits were only put out on shelves here, not packed in boxes and shipped which would have been a more thorough test.

Rubber Tapping.

The whole treatment of the rubber tree from planting to tapping is but little known in Jamaica and therefore we quote below excerpts from an article on "Rubber Tapping on del Corte" which appeared in last month's issue of the "India Rubber World." The article relates to the tapping of Castilloa, and it should be of all the more interest as a very considerable portion of our trees which have reached the stage for tapping are of this species. The original article was written in response to an enquiry regarding the experimental tapping of rubber in progress on the Hacienda del Corte owned by the Isthmus Plantation Association of Mexico. When the article was written the Plantation Manager had not finished tapping and complete records had not reached the home office. "Owing to the lack of age of the planted rubber in Mexico none of the planters there has had much experience in extracting rubber. Hence, the tapping of 'del Corte' has proceeded very cautiously, to avoid all possibility of injuring the trees. Up to this time it has been a question of methods and not of what quantity could be got from a tree in the first tapping. The only tapping done has been by means of V-shaped incisions—usually three on one side of each tree They do not believe in machete tapping. Their manager, Cecilio Oest, has had a knife made according to his own ideas, which makes a nice clean cut that heals readily without harming the trees. On the contrary, it is believed that the few trees subjected to their first tapping last year were benefitted, becoming larger and apparently better than neighbouring trees not tapped." It is stated that at "del Corte" the trees have been tapped less freely than at the same age in Ceylon: but it is added "we prefer to make haste slowly, feeling that there is a sure future for our rubber trees, and there is no occasion for taking any risks. We have demonstrated the fact that every tree planted is a producer. The latex has flowed freely from every tree we have tapped. We have also demonstrated that trees can be tapped without injury. Another very important matter is that the tapping and coagulating is not going to cost as much as we first thought. In regard to the yield of rubber per tree. Manager Oest does not think it safe to estimate approximately more than one ounce per tree for the first tapping. He would not risk damaging the trees for the sake of a larger yield. By the next tapping he

hopes to get more rubber and to find less care necessary. Cups are not used for gathering latex, but a spoon shaped implement. The idea is to tap many of the trees twice this year. For coagulating a small box of burned clay is used, which permits the black water contained in the latex to filter through so that it is only necessary to wash the latex in three or four sets of clean water. Within three or four days after filling the box with latex a well-dried and uniform sheet of rubber is obtained. One man, it is said, can prepare 100 pounds of dry rubber in a day."

The picture showing the manner in which rubber tapping is carried out on Hacienda del Corte has been kindly loaned to us by the Editor of the "India Rubber World," New York. (See "Correspondence.")

Cocoa and Orange Pests—The Weevil.

In last *Journal* Mr Lockett, of Troja called attention to the fact that the grub which we have found doing so much damage to the roots of orange trees here is also a pest on cocoa trees in the same way. This grub is the larvae of the Fiddler Beetle, also called the Orange Weevil, but there are probably several varieties of grubs. They are the same grubs which we find always in rotten wood and are locally termed "Makaka" although this term should only be applied specifically to the very large grubs. We now print a communuication from Mr. H. C. Bennett, an orange grower who holds similar views to Mr. Lockett, viz.—that the grub attacks indiscriminately healthy and weakly trees. We ourselves have held the view, so has Mr. Cradwick, that they do not attack healthy roots. or obviously, as Mr. Cradwick pointed out, the life of an orange and cocoa tree in Jamaica would not be worth a moment's purchase. The tree may be perfectly healthy looking and yet be somewhat damaged at its roots, although the effects of the injury might not be visible in the foliage for some time. The grub finds out the damaged roots quickly and feeds on the decayed part preventing it from having any chance of recovery. However we may be wrong—probably we are and we welcome the communication of Mr. Bennett as well as we did that of Mr. Lockett. Years ago we investigated the matter and formed our opinion then, but of late years we have not had the matter under close observation. It is quite possible that the grubs originally lived only by eating decaying or rotten wood lying about but have now developed indiscriminate bark-eating propensities underground. The remedy recommended by Mr. Bennett is a very good one, i.e., to keep the necks of the trees entirely open so that there is a hollow left under the crown roots and apply regular applications of lime say once a month. We think however that an application of tobacco dust, such as can be got from the cigar factories will act still better and have more lasting effects, and more fertilising effects also, if spread round the tree and into the neck of it. Failing the tobacco dust enough tobacco can always be grown in odd corners to supply tobacco tea, i.e., the leaves of dried tobacco boiled in water, to be poured around the neck of the trees at regular intervals. We should like this tried and reported upon.

Under the heading "Cocoa Pest—A Remedy wanted" in the last issue of the *Journal* I am pleased to see a confirmation of my own experience and opinion by Mr. John Lockett of Troja. The theory that that these grubs (and by the way there is more than one species) at-

tack only unhealthy trees is not comforting even if it were borne out by facts, for the best of trees are certainly liable to occasional loss of vigour, laying them open to attack through causes uncontrollable by us. Observation for some years has persuaded me however that the species of grub which gnaws the bark of the roots of citrus trees assuredly attacks healthy trees, well selected, well placed, well planted, well drained (and the rest of it) quite indiscriminately, but that such trees of course do not show the effect of an attack as soon or succumb as readily as the "Submerged Tenth" unfortunates. The degree of recuperation being much greater of course in the tree with the fullest and best root system shows the importance of the selection of stock. Similar grubs do immense damage to agricultural crops elsewhere and the deterioration and destruction of trees caused by these particular species in many districts in Jamaica is under-rated or unappreciated. Here no doubt is one of the chief causes of inferior fruit and produce. As to remedies I have had similar experience with Mr. Lockett. Curiously, I think it will be found that the destruction of ant's nests will lessen the number of weevils for I have some reason to believe that ants carry and place the eggs and larvae of these beetles among and against the roots of trees as they do scale insects for purposes of their own. It is also to be found that as there is a succession of hatches from March until September (and later of the small variety) and as the grubs make their way readily through the soil, one or two doses only of such quickly exhausted deterrents as lime etc., are not sufficient for the season. Constant and careful hand picking of the beetle, (they are easily shaken from citrus trees early in the morning and picked up by children) with three or more doses at intervals of strong lime or something similar, and a making bare of the crown roots, deep and wide, will be found I think the surest and most practicable way of keeping down this pest—a very serious one in many places.

H. C. BENNETT.

Tarentum, Spanish Town.

Prize Holdings Competition, 1907.

The Prize Holdings Competition for this year will be held in the Parishes of St. Mary, Westmoreland and Hanover. Mr Cradwick has taken up his duties as Instructor in St. Mary, Portland and St. Catherine, but will pay special attention to the Holdings Competition in St. Mary His address for communications is Richmond P.O. The Branch Societies in the parish are Retreat, Mr. Dixon, Retreat P.O., Secretary; Port Maria, Mr. H. J. Dakers, Port Maria, Secretary: and Hampstead with Mr. E. Samuel Exell, Hampstead P.O., Secretary.

Mr. H. D. D. Mennell is Instructor for Westmoreland and Hanover, and will devote his time to furthering the Prize Holdings Competition. His address is Darliston P.O. The Branch Societies in Westmoreland are Sav-la-Mar Mr. A. W. Levy, Secretary, Sav.-la-Mar; St. Peter's, Mr. J. Ed Simms, Secretary, Petersfield; Lamb's River Mr. P. A. Smelle, Secretary, Lamb's River P.O.; while a number of the members of the Newmarket branch are in Westmoreland, and of this branch Mr. A E U. Shakespeare is Secretary Hanover is covered by the several divisions of the Hanover Agricultural Society, of which the Revd. John F. Gartshore, Brownsville Flint River P O., is Secretary.

It should be noted that the Competition is not confined to members of branches but is open to all small settlers whose places conform to the conditions, Posters announcing the competition have been put up through the parishes stating where further information can be obtained. All who are interested in the welfare of the Island should give this competition a helping hand and their kind support.

The results of the prize holdings competition held in St. Ann, Trelawny and Manchester with the list of prize winners and competitors will be published in the May issue of the *Journal.*

Stock Notes.

EFFECTS OF TICKS—There is no locality where cattle are kept in ica but there are ticks present in the pastures. The pastures be shut up for six months or a year, yet the ticks will be there. the cultivation of the tick-infested land for a period of two ns, when the ground is turned over repeatedly, will ever eradi- them. Burning pastures lessens them but does not destroy completely. We have heard of pastures being called tick-free, ou experience never found them so, and for us even a relaxation recautions in keeping the cattle as clean as care could, ticks rmed in those pastures again. Even districts where small set- s have their one or two cows tethered out are infested, and it is n of carelessness and want of thought that this should be so for or two cows are easily attended to and small settlers' cows ought r to have a tick on them. Yet they are often never ticked at We have no patience with the "Musts" and "Can'ts" expressed xcuses for indifference. "Ticks must come."; "Can't help ticks," expressions that are abominable—they are so wrong so positively ted in effect.

Even though ticks do not cause our cattle, now largely immune, ecome ill with Texan fever, and we have not epidemics of this ble, still it is sporadic. And there is the tick anæmia, caused by constant irritation and worry the animals suffer. The beasts ly wear away to shadows. They suffer more severely from ticks n the grass is dry and scarce, during period of drought such e have just passed through. Therefore in dry weather special ought to be taken to pick and wash cattle more keenly than .

SHORTHORN BREEDING.—He only has made a genuine success of thorn breeding who maintains or improves the character of the ials received from other lands. In-breeding is a two-edged sword. e hands of men who were adepts in its application it brought t some of the greatest successes in shorthorn history. By the centration of the blood of favourite animals the distinctive types have so largely dominated the trade have been created. he other hand over-indulgence in the practice has proved the ruction of more than one family of great original merit. Dealing raw materials as it were, the pioneer breeders were able to the highest possible measure of benefit from an appeal to the ewell practice but a century of breeding within herd-book lines brought the Shorthorns of the present in such close relationship what was wise proceedure in the early days would now be the ht of folly. What was once heterogeneous in its composition by the operation of the pedigree registry system been rendered ogeneous. The fact that close breeding proved effective many s ago in the hands of a few men of rare capcity affords no jus- ation whatever for continued in-and-in breeding by their succes- unless accompanied by equal care and capacity.

TO PREVENT ANTHRAX—The Directors of Woolcombers Limited ve that they have discovered a preventive of anthrax. At the al meeting of the company at Bradford the chairman, Mr. W. , said that they had spent £1.000 on an experiment which they d would result in the absolute prevention of the disease. By ns of a certain liquid method of immersion, it would become

impossible for anthrax to be contracted. The tests were satisfactory, and when complete full particulars would be given for the benefit of the public.

Epsom Salts.—This is the Sulphate of Magnesia of the chemist and is a most valuable medicine for drenching cattle. It should always be used in preference to castor oil for cattle but not for horses The dose for full grown cattle is 1½ lb ; from six months to a year old stock about 1 lb. ; under six months ½ lb. The Epsom Salt should be dissolved in a quart of boiling water and one to four tablespoonsful of ground ginger added according to the age of the beast. It makes the drench easier to be administered if ½ pint of molasses is added to the boiling water. When cool the mixture should be put in a drenching bottle and be well shaken before the drench is administered For fowls a tablespoonful of Epsom Salts dissolved in a pint of water should be put down for them to drink and if this is done weekly it is an excellent preventative of trouble.

Glauber Salts. or Sulphate of Soda is used in the same way and for the same purpose as Epsom Salts. It is cheaper but harder to dissolve in water.

Ginger.—Ginger is used in medicine as a stimulant and stomachic and is an ingredient of almost every stock Condition Powder. When cows have to be drenched with one pound Epsom Salts dissolved in water, four tablespoonsful of ground ginger should be added with an equal quantity of "wet sugar" and the bottle well shaken. The sugar covers the harsh taste of the Salts and helps to get the drench over.

In colic in horses the same drench as above can be used with good effect and should be given warm. Ginger can also be used as a fomentation failing mustard if extreme heat is wanted quickly.

Sulphate of Iron.—This substance is much used in stock medicines as a general tonic After dosing for worms it is a good thing to use a teaspoonful in the corn fed to horses or mules, but is better still if it is mixed into a condition powder. A good and simple condition powder is made up of 4 tablespoonsful of charcoal, 4 tablespoonsful of ground ginger, 4 tablespoonsful of Sulphate of Iron, 4 tablespoonsful of Carbonate of Soda, 4 tablespoonsful of common salt; mix thoroughly and give a tablespoonful mixed with 2 quarts of ground corn or oats a-day. Care should be taken to distinguish between Sulphate of Iron and Sulphate of Copper or Bluestone.

Goats.

We have imported two pairs of goats—two billies and two nannies from England, all unrelated and one nanny in kid to a different billy from those sent. Their description is as follows :—

1. Pedigree Anglo-Nubian Stud Billy "Orpheus" (No. 1,398, H. B.) one year old and fit for immediate service ; Sire "Ampthill Beauty', (1,302), Dam "Khogee" (979).

2. Anglo-Nubian Nanny.

3. Large English hornless Nanny, been served by hornless Anglo-Toggenburg Billy.

4. Large grey and white cross-bred Swiss stud Billy, "William Tell," rising 3 years old, a sure stock getter.

It is not the original price that deters us from importing more stock here and has especially prevented the introduction of fresh blood among our goats, and that of a milch strain, long ago, but it is the way other expenses pile up. On these goats for instance there is freight £2 10s. each ; duty here 10s. each; gratuity to Butcher on board steamer or feeding 10s ; and so on, making the total cost of these goats £6 each.

The following quotation from the report of Mr. Cradwick and Mr. Palache who judged the small holdings in Manchester bears directly on the subject in hand. They say :—"We were very much disappointed at the class of goats to be seen in the parish. It seems a great pity that it has been impossible for the Agricultural Society to do more for the improvement of these useful and easily kept animals; a change of blood even from a neighbouring parish would we feel sure do good in the parish of Manchester. The goats in St. Ann for instance were to our mind very far superior."

Poultry.

DISEASE OF CHICKENS.—We have often treated of the troubles of chickenhood. We cannot say we have now much that is new to add; we have not discovered new ailments, or new ways to treat the old ones. But still they come, the old familiar tales of troubles and questions as to how they happen and requests for cures. It is ever—as in the human subjects—something to cure, not how to prevent.

There is one outstanding cause for all troubles 'Ignorance." Yet if you called anybody ignorant they would resent it. They might be wise in many ways, yet they are bound to be ignorant of some subjects: and if wise in general, they, before attempting to deal practically with any subject, especially in agriculture, should read first all they can get to read about it. Many people are of an enquiring disposition, always eager to learn more, troubled with a great thirst for knowledge. This is apart from inquisitiveness—quite a different thing Others live on without using their brains, or cultivating more knowledge even about the most familiar and necessary things. Poultry are necessary to our domestic life in Jamaica. We could do without fowls no doubt but we would find it hard. We could do without cows easier as we have tinned milk. We have no tinned eggs,—we are thankful for that. It should therefore be the duty of every housewife to try to know as much as possible about the care of poultry. We are an agricultural community and the subject of our conversation, the exercise of our intelligence, may properly be largely directed to the things necessary for our existence. Ladies may talk of dress *ad lib*, nobody minds. It is right; we suppose dress is necessary and good dressing is attractive. But why should agricultural subjects be smiled at when introduced as subjects for conversation—and the daring initiator of the subject look rather abashed at her temerity. With this homily we go on to the actual cause of most chicken troubles—*Dirt.* The most common ailment is "Yaws"—called elsewhere Chicken Pox or Sore Head, both more descriptive than our term. The chickens are allowed to sleep under the old hen, often in the old nest where they were hatched, or at any rate in the same spot, box or barrel every night without thought of cleaning that place. Thus they sit among their own droppings, often with the smell of foul droppings round them: sometimes

they are closely shut up in a box or barrel to keep them from rats. The foul air poisons their blood and Nature attempts to throw off that poison through the eruptions called "Yaws." If the chickens were at once put under sanitary conditions these eruptions would soon break by the scratching of the chicken, and dry up without bleeding or eating into the flesh. But as the last thing that is thought of is at the root of the trouble and the poor chickens are looked upon as being very aggravating and inconsiderate to get sick, the yaws spread and soon kill the little things miserably. The first thing to do is to provide a clean place for the chickens to sleep and we also usually sprinkle a little Jeyes and water under the hens wings as her feathers are often saturated with the foul odour of excretions. Then dissolve two teaspoonsful of Epsom Salts in a pint of water and place this in a pan where the chickens must drink it—that is, let them have no other water. Do this three mornings in succession. Feed—rice, duck ants and worms instead of corn. Get 3d worth of Tincture of Iodine and a camel hair brush—or. a feather will do: catch up the chickens in the evening when they return one by one and touch the yaws with the tincture. Do this three days also and in that time the chickens are better. The scales will drop off or can be rubbed off leaving the flesh below clean.

Tincture of Iodine is at once a safe, clean and effective application. Carbolic, and Butter of Antimony are effective also but dangerous to put in the hands of servants, or have at hand. Therefore we have for years advised Tincture of Iodine and it has been proved safe and sure. It is also the specific for another poultry trouble, so is doubly effective.

Next month.—Roup.

Poultry Tonic.—The best of all iron tonics for poultry is that known as "Douglas Mixture" and is composed of $\frac{1}{2}$lb. of sulphate of iron and 1 oz. of sulphuric acid dissolved in two gallons of water, and given to the birds at the rate of two tablespoonsful to a pint of their drinking water. It is the best safeguard against roup, besides being a splendid tonic, bracing up poultry generally.

Turkeys.

There are different kinds of turkeys in Jamaica. How they originally came here we do not know. We do not know where the Buff Turkey came from, sometimes called the Cinnamon Turkey, as it is the colour of cinnamon bark. Then there is the grey speckled turkey and of late years importations of Bronze Turkeys have been made from the United States. The Bronze Turkey is the largest breed of all and it takes the eye of those people who like everything big, but in a small island Nature decrees otherwise, except perhaps as regards man. The animals that thrive best here are those that are endowed with a considerable amount of natural activity, and do not incline to be gross even with abundance of food. Large Bronze Turkeys are very nice to look at but in a few generations with the same food and care as the others they are reduced to the size of the grey and buff turkeys. Large creatures are slower to grow unless they are forced under artificial conditions. Now people here do not give the same care and scientific attention to live stock as is done in countries where there are many fanciers who will ex-

pend thought, time, endless patience and labour on their stock. We take things easier, we feed the foods that come easiest to hand, with little regard to our conditions and the nature and instinct of the animals. Therefore although we urge people to improve their stock and are constant importers ourselves, we would say frankly that for those who are not prepared to give careful attention and a good deal of consideration to the wants of their animals, imported stock will be of no use to them whatever. They will simply have more trouble and less favourable results than with our own native stock. As fresh blood, however, is useful, pure-bred stock native-bred is nearly always available from those who do import and do expend care and skill on their stock. The peculiarities of the different breeds of turkeys here are very marked. Wherever the Buff Turkey came from it is the most domesticated of the lot. The Bronze Turkey still retains a great degree of suspicion in its habits. The present breed of Bronze Turkey was made by introducing the blood of wild turkeys common in the woods of North America. It is the most fussy of the three breeds mentioned, likes to lay away in quiet spots, and when approached hisses and fidgets so that it is liable to break the eggs when disturbed. The Grey Turkey is not very far behind in these respects, but can be handled better. The Buff Turkey on the other hand is as tame as a bird can be made. We noticed this years ago and have lately handled the Buffs in order to study their characteristics. They are very handsome when properly bred and are so quiet that they can be lifted and made to lay in a nest and to sit on eggs almost anywhere, even more readily than a hen. They are so easy minded that you can make the hen take two or three breeds of different sizes to rear; when used for hatching fowl eggs they will take any colour of chickens although not their own brood, and they are very careful gentle and cautious mothers. We should like to see this breed taken up by fanciers and improved. This can be done by introducing fresh blood every season, by feeding largely on animal food when young instead of the eternal corn and instead of feeding only two or three times a day, feed 5 small feeds a day when the turkeys are little. In all dry climates in Jamaica turkeys are very easily reared. But a mistake is made in feeding them corn, and yet corn is our handiest native food. It is a good plan to bury bones here and there in a garden and at intervals dig them up and let the young turkeys feed on the maggots. With these and duck ants, coarse oatmeal, when they are young and guinea corn later on, we could improve our turkeys in size very much without frequent importations, or without reducing the effects of imported blood so quickly as is done under our present system.

Pigs in Sickness.

We are often written to concerning trouble in pigs. When a good description of the manner in which the sick animals are kept, and how they are fed is given, we are usually able to find out what has caused the trouble and to advise what line of treatment to adopt. Besides remedying what is wrong in the daily treatment, it is necessary to advise immediate medicinal treatment to check the trouble and hasten the return to health. Now it is not difficult to give medicine to a horse either in the form of a drench or ball, or to a cow as a drench, but a pig is a most unsatisfactory invalid to

handle. Besides being noisy, he is refractory. Few know how to handle a pig in disease and we admit that pigs running free or tied out are different animals to the quiet, docile, habitants of a stye. To give a drench is difficult and if given hastily or with a struggle, it easily results in the choking of the pig. A ball is almost as bad and the only way left is to administer the medicine in the food. But one of the first signs of sickness in a pig is its refusal of food. What then ? First rope the pig and if he is not too big, straddle over him as if riding, pinning him below the shoulder with your knees, while he is roped round the neck and tied to a post in front. A rope is slipped into his mouth and twisted over the upper jaw. An old shoe with the toe cut off is slipped into his mouth and the liquid medicine poured from a long necked bottle into the shoe when it will run slowly down his throat. The rope must then be slackened to allow him to use his jaws in swallowing. As the pig in his anger at being handled usually snaps his jaws, the shoe can generally be inserted without the rope round the jaw.

We have had cases of death by pneumonia reported to us lately, cases of bad coughs in pigs, cases of kidney worm and indigestion. We have suggested the simple oil and turpentine treatment for the coughs and worms ; the pneumonia is we are afraid incurable in a pig. It is no use here suggesting the elaborate prescriptions which require considerable expense, and a drug shop at hand, for small pig owners who do not keep medicine in stock as large stock-owners do. We have therefore from our own experience, based on the experience of countries with similar conditions, evolved and applied certain treatment of sick animals—we are glad to say with some satisfaction—by methods and medicines, handy and familiar to everyone. We quote some of these and shall be glad to hear of other simple and homely recipes we know are used by many in the country with success.

Kidney Worms.—For kidney worms and any other parasites of the stomach and bowels administer one tablespoonful of turpentine in a pint of sweetened milk : repeat for two more days and on the fourth day dose with four ounces of Epsom Salts dissolved in one pint of boiling water, sweetened with four tablespoonsful of wet sugar, to which add one teaspoonful of saltpetre. Give when slightly warm. Repeat in seven days and once a week until better. Symptoms :—The symptoms of worms in the stomach or in the bowels are an unthrifty condition in spite of a huge appetite : sometimes the pig sinks on his hind quarters, and occasionally loses power in its hind legs ; and in some cases even dragging them along.

Indigestion :—This is a more common trouble than is usually realised and is one of those troubles included in the local term "hog-sick," but the true hog sickness is the dreaded disease Cholera. Indigestion is caused by errors in feeding. The most common error is irregularity in feeding and especially in giving one huge feed a day (see *Journal* Nov., 1906,) instead of three small meals. When only one large feed is given, the hog is extremely hungry and bolts the feed in huge gulps until it can stuff in no more : still it has food left and every half hour or so the animal takes a little more, and before the next meal is due is routing amongst the sour remains of the last meal, trying to pick up something to satisfy his hunger. Another cause is want of variety in food : a pig is fed green bananas, green bananas, or coco-heads, coco-heads, or sugar skimmings in-

stead of a variety of food. A third cause is lack of green food, and this is often the case when pigs are confined in a pen. A fourth cause is want of fresh water: because a pig is fed sloppy food it is considered not to need water. But although a man may happen to drink tea or coffee or stuff himself with pappy foods he will feel thirsty and require plenty water—and it is the same with pigs. To prevent indigestion, avoid the above errors. Give three regular meals—one of them being of green stuff, plenty of variety in food, and give the pig clean water. As medicine the following can be given: a like quantity of Epsom Salts in water as stated above, and repeat for three days: on the fourth day add to the Epsom salts two tablespoonsful of powdered ginger, four tablespoonsful of sugar, and, if at hand, one teaspoonful of sulphate of iron.

HOG CHOLERA is usually a development of indigestion. A pig with indigestion is a suitable subject and when filthy conditions are added—such as soiled ground, unclean food, dirty feeding utensils and dirty water—there is a fine field for the germs of hog cholera or swine fever to develop and these germs are probably present in every pig. The remedy is to feed the pig as recommended above: keep the feeding utensils clean, green food and clean water. Give a dose of Epsom salts as recommended for indigestion with the addition of one tablespoonful of Jeyes fluid. If every stock-keeper had a syringe (such as is commonly used for horses and cattle) and every animal got an enema washing out the rectum with two quarts of warm water with two teaspoonsful of Jeyes added to the water, this would relieve the animal of foul excreta and help the bowels to get into good working order. This process is one of the most valuable for all sick animals—thus flushing and disinfecting the bowels.

CONSTIPATION.—Pigs are not much subject to constipation except in connection with indigestion and cholera. The best way to relieve the animal is by cleaning out its bowels by means of a horse syringe with two quarts of warm water.

LIVER COMPLAINT is caused in the same way as indigestion but more through the kind of foods given such as abundance of corn or of coco-nuts which are both fatty. Discontinue the food given by about one half and replace the quantity by green food, and treat as follows:—Flush out bowels with syringe as already described: give a dose of four ounces of Epsom salts dissolved in water to which one tablespoonful of powdered ginger is added.

JAMAICA EXPORTS, '06-07.	Total from 1st April '06, to 30th Mar. '07.	Total from 1st April '05 to 31st Mar. '06
Coffee cwt	49,676	83,910
Cocoanuts No	10,600,042	7,101 054
Cocoa cwt	500,57	32,587
Dyewoods tons	33,849	34,065
Bananas stems	15,847,590	14 748,642
Oranges No	54,760,004	72,691,493
Ginger cwt	24,022	17,075
Pimento cwt	82,882	89 667
Rum gals	1,487,948	1,056,636
Sugar tons	13,971	12,523
Cotton lbs	16,921	75,307
Cattle No	375	—
Horses No	194	—
Mules No	48	—

Honey and Wax.

The honey season is a good one and it is remarkable for the fact that the honey weighs heavier than usual, but it is not so clear as is desirable. This is probably due to dry weather and the heavy blossoming of some particular drought-loving tree, perhaps the Silk-Cotton Tree. We have a suspicion that the thickness may be due to lack of water for the bees. It is not generally known, or at least if it is, it is not appreciated, or acted upon, that bees like water, and need water, as much as any other live stock, and it is as necessary for their secretion of honey as much as it is necessary for a cow for its secretion of milk. If water is not found near the apiary, bees will fly long distances to get it. It therefore handicaps them not to find water at hand, and wastes their energy and time seeking for it which might have been devoted to seeking the nectar flowers.

It is surprising to us—and we have for years thought over the subject, made enquiry, observed, and tried the plan,—that more beekeepers do not run their bees for wax instead of honey, that is in certain districts where they can only produce dark honey and are far from markets. It is just in these districts that sugar cane grows so freely and ratoons for 20 years, so that sugar is cheap beyond measure,—our "wet" sugar—which is just the thing for feeding bees. Make what can be made out of the dark honey, but if prices are unsatisfactory or freight heavy, feed the honey back to the bees, and in wet weather keep them fed with sugar. The result is marketed in the concentrated form of wax. In Cuba they keep bees under sheds and run others for wax largely. In wet districts here in order to be able to get the bees to feed sugar, the apiary would require to be under a rough thatch shed. A campaign of instruction in running bees for wax, if done judiciously and widely, would probably result in our doubling our exports of wax in two years. At present they are very trifling, yet there are illimitable prospects of profit in wax. The system of running for wax is distinctly different from running hives for honey but is not so exacting.

CAUSE OF DARK HONEY.—In reply to your enquiry regarding the honey this year being dark and heavy, it is the result of the mango and ceiba (cotton tree) blooming and yielding nectar profusely this year.

These two plants bloom and yield nectar best when the weather is dry, and the conditions were favourable this season. Both the mango and ceiba cotton honey is dark and very thick. The logwood and cockspur yield a water white honey, but these two plants failed to yield nectar this season as the conditions were unfavourable. If the logwood and cockspur yielded nectar along with the mango and ceiba cotton, then we would have had a fine amber colour honey.

The years that we produce water-white honey are those when the conditions are favourable for the logwood and cockspur to bloom profusely, and unfavourable for the mango and ceiba cotton to bloom.

The above four plants usually bloom in the first quarter of the year. The ceiba cotton is an erratic bloomer and will skip over several years without blooming, and it is a known fact, that the year there is a general bloom of ceiba cotton you can look out for dry weather. And why?

In my opinion nature has caused the seeds which adhere to the down (usually called Singlego or Wait-a bit,) to float in the air and so distribute the seed and propagate the plant; but if the down got

wet all the seeds would fall under the tree and in the course of time the plant would become extinct.

F. A. HOOPER.

(It is the other way about, we think. It is the long dry weather that forces the cotton or Ceiba tree into profuse blossom, and also the mango tree. Neither likes wet places nor wet seasons.)

BEESWAX IN THE ARTS.—Under the action of the pure-food law, lately passed in the United States, beeswax will have a much larger use than ever before. Indeed, there is already a notable increase in the price. Druggists (and there are thousands and thousands of them in the country who formerly used paraffine, ceresin, and the like) will now be *compelled* under the new law to use nothing but pure beeswax, and the amount will run up into the hundreds of thousands of pounds. But what do druggists do with wax? They use it for making plasters, certain kinds of ointments, and for certain medicines known to the pharmacopœia.

There has always been a large use for paraffine and ceresin for making candy; but now these can be used no more, while beeswax will be permitted as before. These two industries alone will increase the demand for the product of the hive to a great extent; and while we do not expect an immediate advance in the price of wax over and above what has already taken place, the time is not far distant when bee-keepers with dark honeys will do well to consider the possibility of making wax-production a business.

Under the action of the new pure-food law, the bleached table sugars will gradually go out of market, and a cheaper and better substitute in the form of unbleached cane sugars, costing all the way from 1 cent to 1½ cents less, will take place. These sugars are richer in sweetness; and, taking into consideration their reduced price, it would not be strange if the cost of feeding bees for the production of wax, or for any other legitimate purpose, will be from 30 to 50 per cent less; for it must be understood that these unrefined cane sugars will go further than the so-called refined sugars bleached with chemicals that extract some of the flavor as well as some of the sweetness out of the article, substituting therefor a deleterious residue that cannot be eliminated.

The Roman Catholic Church uses large quantities of beeswax in the form of candles. That organization will not tolerate paraffine, ceresin, nor any of the mineral waxes, all of which give off a nasty greasy odor in candles while burning, while one made of beeswax leaves a delightful permeating perfume. Then, too, the burning of mineral wax leaves a deposit that injures the pictures, while beeswax mellows and preserves them.

There are certain grades of blacking, harness oils, and lubricants that require pure beeswax in their manufacture. A blacking containing beeswax will stand more dampness than that made of any other substance.

The electric supply business is a consumer of our product. The windings of the wire are soaked in the paraffine or beeswax—preferably the latter, because it seems to be less affected by extremes of heat and by moisture. Pattern-makers are also users of our article. The profession of dentistry takes a large quantity of pure wax every year, reference to which has already been made elsewhere.

In all the arts, paraffine, ceresin, and certain other mineral waxes can be used; but, if we are correctly informed, none of them have all the desirable qualities of the product from the hive.

Comments.

COCOA.—It is unfortunate that the drought has practically destroyed our prospects of cocoa for this season when it looked as if we would have even a heavier crop than last season—which was the heaviest bearing we think on record—and owing to the great shortage of crops in other and larger cocoa producing countries the world's stocks are very much below normal at the present time. It is a curious thing that most cocoa producing countries in different parts of the world had poor results from their crops last season. It is too early yet to say exactly what 1907 will do, but it is very doubtful whether Trinidad will do better than she did last year, probably not so well. The world's stocks for 1906 were considerably below 1905 and so far in 1907 the stocks already in London and Havre are very much below those of 1906. Although the price has slightly declined at the time of writing it is still high and in view of the probable shortage should remain high during the coming year.

ST. ANN SHOW AT THICKETTS.—Arrangements are being advanced in connection with the Show which the St. Ann's Agricultural Society are to hold at Thicketts in August and the committee hope to have the prize list out in a week or two.

FREIGHT RATES.—The freight rates on live stock from the United States are ridiculous. It is pointed out under the heading Goats page the great expense incurred to bring these animals from England, but Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. have already met importers to a great degree. The freight rates from England were reduced at our instance and the charge covers cost of box, feed, and attention on board, although it is usual to give the particular officer looking after stock a gratuity. The United States rates although for less than half the distance are actually dearer and the animals receive less attention. We imported pigs and fowls lately and in both cases have been disgusted with the conditions. The rates from Halifax, Nova Scotia, are very reasonable and they are about half the rates from New York.

SOME STOCK MEDICINES.—Under "Stock Notes" and "Pigs in Sickness" appear several paragraphs the first set of a series which we intend publishing regularly during the next few months. We continually receive letters asking for advice on the treatment of sick live stock mostly from those who keep only a few head and so have not much skill in or knowledge of stock. As these requests for advice mainly refer to cows, goats, pigs and poultry, we take it that people are more familiar with horses and their troubles than with these stock. The notes on stock medicines are not therefore meant for penkeepers but for that now large and increasing number of small settlers and others who keep a horse or mule, a few cows, some goats, pigs and poultry. The idea is to use as few medicines—and those familiar to everybody and to be got anywhere—as is consistent with a fair measure of effectiveness. Veterinary science has not only a specific or combination of specifics for each disease but also for each stage of a disease which hastens the cure. In the simple advice here given however the cure may take a little longer than from a veterinarian prescription but the treatment advised is within the capacity of a small settler or a private family not much accustomed to stock to effectively handle.

THE DANGERS OF FIRE.—Our Instructors are ever at all times objecting to the careless handling of fire generally and the uselessness, the danger of, and the damage so often accomplished by the small settler in clearing his land for his provision ground by the means of fire. The first named has regrettably enough found one more costly example in St. Thomas-in-the-East. Mr. Briscoe in a recent report says:—"I think you should draw attention to the careless use of fire. The day before I left St. Thomas about forty to fifty acres of standing canes were set on fire by some one on Serge Island estate. Also on the hillsides around Trinityville a fire had been burning the whole week and was still burning when I left. This fire in its course had destroyed between 25 and 30 small settlers grounds containing yams, peas etc., and was caused by two children—both under seven years of age—who while carrying a fire stick to their father's ground put it down on the grass and started the fire with the above mentioned result."

STOWAGE.—With reference to Mr. Orgill's letter published under Board of Management and Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co.'s reply, we should like to say that Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co. has just cause of complaint as regard shippers and shipping to different consignees on one bill of Lading. This undoubtedly causes great delay and leaves room for consignments going astray. They are, however, wrong in saying that the cause of fruit arriving in an unsound condition in London is because it is not cured enough here. So far as regards private shippers most of the prominent shippers cure for 5 or 6 days, one we know even up to 10 days: thus all fruit thorn-pricked or bruised in picking gets weeded out. There are of course some delays by the Railway, but when the Railway was not nearly so well equipped and before we had quick direct steamers, fruit used to carry pretty well to the United Kingdom by the Atlas Steamers via New York: but these were small consignments and therfore were perhaps more carefully stowed in these steamers. In those days fruit was not cured at all, but simply taken from the trees and packed in barrels, not boxes. It was pointed out by members of the Board that the agents of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes in the rush of the season, picked and packed on the same day and yet their fruit going to Manchester in their own steamers carrying nothing but fruit, carried well. Therefore it seems to us that the causes of oranges arriving in the home markets in bad condition are narrowed down to one thing and that is bad stowage on Elder Dempster & Co.'s steamers.

BRANCH SOCIETIES AND DATES OF MEETINGS.—We have just sent out to Branch Societies a notice requesting them to inform us as to the exact dates of monthly and quarterly meetings for the purpose of publishing them in the *Journal.* This is to be done in the hope that it may help towards getting a fuller and more regular attendance at all Branch Meetings. The atttendance of members at the monthly and special meetings of a branch is a true gauge of the amount of interest being taken in the work of the Society, and it is a complaint which we often—we regret to say—have to note that the members of such and such a branch are not turning out and are not taking any interest in the work of the branch. In a reply, under the heading "Correspondence" to Mr. W. A. Bryan, Secretary, Thompson Town Society, will be found one or two hints as to how to make the Monthly Meetings of the Branch Societies more interesting and popular and to these we would direct the attention not only of Presidents and Secretaries but also of ordinary members. As the attendance at the Meetings is so largely dependent on the amount of interest created the suggestions there offered should receive serious attention.

COW PEAS:—We have a quantity of native grown cow peas for sale at 6d per quart. Apply to the Secretary.

DRY WEATHER.—The dry weather which set in, in the second week of November and has continued till the time of writing, the second week of April, has done very serious damage to crops and live stock. But for a fortunate break in February, the driest month of the year, when good showers fell over two or three days, the results would have been still more serious and as bad as the drought ten years ago 1897 98 when no rains fell practically from the 1st week of November until the 3rd week of April. Our exports showed up very satisfactorily for the first nine months and every prospect looked cheerful but the drought began to tell on the bananas in January and we finish the financial year to 31st March poorly. The effect of the drought will tell still more unsatisfactorily in the next financial year. The cocoa crop too has been badly damaged just when it gave promise of a great crop. Latterly the drought has also affecte the sugar cane and some estates have had to stop work. There have been a great many bush fires and we wish to call the attention of our readers, teachers and clergymen especially, to the necessity of inculcating care in the use of fire, to old and young during periods of drought. But for the Earthquake the drought would have given some compensation in the fact that the dry weather would have suited tourists to a nicety, but they have not been here to enjoy the brilliant sunshine of the days and the clear, cool bracing nights. There has been some little compensation, however, in a magnificent bloom on the coffee and citrus trees, and if rain comes about the middle of April we should have fine crops of both, and early oranges. The dry weather has also suited the curing of ginger and owing to the shortness of crops these last two years the price is something like that of old times

OUR EXPORTS.—We have finished the financial year ending 31st March very satisfactorily. We only hope this time next year we may be able to look with the same satisfaction on our exports. But between earthquake and drought we doubt it. Still the Island has such recuperative powers that vegetation may come off with a

rush when the drought breaks, as it has broken over Manchester and upland parts of the Island at the time of writing (the middle of April) Our exports of coffee have been unsatisfactory the year gone, almost a half less than the year before, but judging from the magnificent blossom and the showers that have fallen just in time in the the coffee districts, there should be a fine crop in the coming season. We have exported almost three and a half millions more coco-nuts than the year before, and over a half more cocoa; we have increased our exports of dyewood by over two thousand tons; of bananas by over a million stems; ginger by seven thousand cwt.; rum by four hundred thousand gallons, and sugar by over a thousand tons more The other unsatisfactory items besides the coffee are :—oranges, and with this product every year seems to show a decline; pimento shows a decrease, but there are stocks in hand and more going forward at the very end of the year than in the same period of the previous year by a thousand cwt. We expected much of cotton but have had practically nothing done, yet we do not give up hope and will keep at it. We are still positive that it will provide an excellent stand-by for all dry districts. The crops that were grown this season have stood the drought better than any other product. There is only one remedy for hard times and a poor outlook, i.e. hard work.

Correspondence.

Mandeville, March 29th 1907.

SATISFACTION IN TOMATOES.—Mrs. J. W. Edwards, Montpelier, has grown tomatoes this year, Sutton's "Satisfaction," which have given a crop which I have never seen excelled in Jamaica. The fruits themselves are about as near perfection as it is possible to imagine, the tomatoes being almost entirely free from core, with a skin perfectly crimson, very few seeds and a delicious red flesh: they were absolutely free from disease.—W. CRADWICK.

Brown's Town, March 28th 1907.

ORPINGTONS & INDIAN GAMES—The Black Orpington you sent me is a wonderful bird. I have over 100 chickens by him already, some weighing nearly 3 lbs that were hatched in January. The cross with Indian Games are wonderful growers—I am really glad to see that the Journal is to be issued again I find the back numbers very helpful. Please do not leave me out when distributing.—R. L. YOUNG.

Ocho Rios, March 16th 1907.

RE MILDEW ON ROSES AND POTATO CROP.—Would you kindly let me know if you can, the best remedy for mildew on roses. I tried flowers of sulphur dusted on, with little effect, and it is so expensive where a quantity of roses are, about 200—300 bushes in all. The mildew is actually killing all the young shoots, and shows no signs of checking at all though we have had two weeks dry weather and my soil here is dry. The Arsenate of Lead used to spray white scale is of no use whatever.—Potatoes turned out very badly indeed in spite of splendid season for their growth: they are only marbles. Are you sure they sent you Scottish T? for previous years with far worse weather they turned out much better. I shall barely get back the quantity planted. Others near here had the same experience of this seed.—F. A. CORY.

[Reply—We do not exactly know what you mean by mildew. Kindly send us a twig of one of the bushes as a sample. It seems to be a lack of drainage somewhere. Have you looked to this? Arsenate of Lead would be no good. Kerosene Emulsion we are sure would be of use. We are very sorry the potatoes turned out badly. It is not the fault of the seed, however, as has been proven by the seed of the Port Royal Mountains, where at Mavis Bank and Cambridge—comparatively large potato producing districts for Jamaica—they turned out exceedingly good crops as witness this letter from Mr. Rennalls. He says :—"Though the season has been exceptionally dry the potatoes have done remarkably well. Nothing but thorough cultivation could have redeemed the potato crop through the past dry weather." Now Mr. Rennalls is one of the best cultivators of vegetables, and is well known. These potatoes have been accustomed to high cultivation in the North and must receive something of the same treatment here or will fare badly.—Ed]

Hartlands.

RE RAILWAY RATES FOR FOWLS, AND RE UN-HATCHED EGGS..—Can you explain the fluctuating charges made by the Railway for Poultry. I paid 2d on the two Turkey Hens in the hamper I sent you. Why do they charge 1s for two fowls in a box for exactly the same distance. Mr. Rutty sent me a Turkey Cock from Richmond to Old Harbour in a box upon which he paid 2s 6d. I put two hens in the same box and sent them to him, (Richmond from Old Harbour) and I was only charged 3d, It seems most extraordinary to me.—Out of 24 eggs set under a turkey hen only 6 have come out, 18 are perfectly formed but it appears the inner skin was so thick and leathery that the chicks could not break through, although the shells were all broken. Can you account for that or how to avoid it in future as I have 4 dozens more to hatch out in a week's time. All the eggs are from the fowls I got from you. The first dozen I set all came strong healthy chicks and growing well.—C. BRAVO.

[Reply.—With regard to the Railway charges the rates from Kendal to Kingston for two fowls is 2d, while the same fowls going from Kingston to Kendal would be charged 1s 6d. It seems the out stations only charge per bird, while at Kingston they charge by weight of package.—With regard to the eggs that failed to come out that is due to the dry weather and can easily be obviated either by dipping the eggs in warm water about four days before they are due to hatch, or by occasionally sprinkling water over them. In nature the sitting hen makes her nest in a damp corner and in addition comes off in the early morning and returns wet with dew; the heat and moisture soften shell and inner skin, which latter when kept perfectly dry gets tough as leather. In future you can prevent such an accident as has just happened by attention as above.—Ed.]

Water Valley, Albany, April 3rd 1907.

MILK WITHE AND RAMIE.—I have read with much interest the article entitled "Jamaica Rubber" in the *Journal* received yesterday. The "Milk Withe" grows plentifully on land belonging to me, therefore I shall be much obliged by further information. Samples of the rubber are mentioned as having been lately valued in London at 6s per lb. Does that mean that a market can now be found for it in London or elsewhere? You write of "dry and washed Caoutchouc" also of "crude Caoutchouc." What is the difference in preparation—and can you tell me how the former is prepared? Can you oblige me with the address to which samples of the rubber should be sent? Should you advise collecting the juice in dry or in wet weather? Amongst the "Comments" in the *Journal* for November 1906 is one promising latest information as to the cultivation of Ramie and its subsequent treatment by the special machine described by Mr. Neelmyer. I also understood Mr. Fawcett was about to publish a pamphlet on the same subject. When will this information be available. I wish to know how Ramie can be successfully cultivated in Jamaica. The article on Ramie in December *Journal* does not touch on this. (Miss) A. PATTERSON.

[Reply.—With regard to the Rubber, hitherto the cost of collecting the Milk Withe has been so great to be almost as much as it is worth, being so scattered. If it grew close together in plantation form we think it would be of great value. The difference between "dry and washed" and "crude" rubber is that the latter is simply the dry juice and the former has been through a form of preparation by washing. The Rubber is usually sent out in some moulded shape, either in sheets or blocks. We could send samples of rubber to Messrs. Gillespie Bros., London, through their Agent Mr. R. S. Gamble. You will probably find most latex in the plant after rain.—The information on Ramie promised in the November *Journal* of 1906 was contained in full and complete fashion in the *Journal* for January of this year which was unfortunately, together with all the papers connected therewith, at the printers and was destroyed in the fire which followed the earthquake. The article contained my notes made over a period of years and these were unfortunately destroyed also. We are unable therefore much to our regret to repeat the article. Ramie is very easily grown from cuttings which can be obtained from the Director of Public Gardens. They are simply planted like cane tops. If there are any other details which I can give you which can be of any use I shall be glad if I can assist you.—ED.]

"India Rubber World," New York,
March 30, 1907.

Replying to yours of March 20, I am sending you, by today's mail, a copy of "What I Saw in the Tropics" and enclose receipt. Please accept my thanks. I am very glad to loan you the block of Del Corte tapping, which is going to you in to-day's mail. I remember with much pleasure the brief call that I paid you some two years ago and your courtesy at that time. Would it be possible for you to get some cuttings of the Milk Withe, the *Fosteronia* that is indigenous to Jamaica? I mean a few cuttings that would allow me to grow a little of it and to experiment with it? Thanking you in advance—H. C. PEARSON.

Thompson Town, Mocho P.O.
April, 3rd 1907.

"DEADNESS" IN BRANCH SOCIETIES:—Your letter of 27th March came to hand on the evening of the 2nd when I was busily engaged. I am thinking I will soon resign the position of Secretary for this Society because of the deadness which seems to be killing out every good effort. The enclosed is all I can write for the present.—W. A. BRYAN.

[Reply:—We are sorry to hear there is such a lack of interest in your local Agricultural Society. What can you suggest to stir up your people? One way of keeping them up to the mark is always to have something of interest to discuss at the meetings. If you would write us before your meetings we could suggest subjects that would interest them. We are sorry that we are absolutely cut off from visiting your district. One subject you could discuss now is the effects of drought on cultivation and the best way of counteracting the effects. Kindly let us hear from you what you think could be done. 2. As regards your second letter of the 4th inst. I am sorry to say that I can procure no seed potatoes for you. These are not commonly sold and so have to be ordered long ahead and would have to be imported. The only potatoes that could be got would be the ordinary shop potatoes which are not dependable for planting purposes although they might turn out well. If you wish to risk these I could get them for you I daresay.—ED.]

Ganahl, S. L. P., Mexico,
21st March, 1907.

MONGOOSE FOR MEXICO:—Would you do me the very great favour of obtaining 3 pair mongoose and sending same to Vera Cruz, Mexico.

They will have to be placed in separate cages. So there will be six cages and direction for feeding them be written on the cages. Please advise what the cost would be. We want them urgently. I am asking this as a special favour. Glad to tell you I am doing well. I am in charge of a large distillery situated up the River Pauuco which enters the sea at Tampico, about 80 miles from where we are located. The land here is glorious—all sandy loam of great depth, but as two good things never go together, the rainfall less than that of Vere, but as an offset we have the river and do irrigation by pumping very effectually. Mexico is a very favoured country and is rapidly developing. In arid district they have mines. Agriculture is still in its infancy.—S. STRICKER.

Reply:—Although we should be glad to be of service and could procure the mongoose, there is no line of steamers running from this port to Vera Cruz.—ED.

STALLION.

The Society's Welsh Pony Stallion "SIR GERALD" is now stationed at Maggotty, Siloah P.O., near Appleton station, care of Mr. J. D. Mennell.

Fee for Service £1 1s. Pasturage extra.

Applications for service to be sent to the Studmaster, or to

JOHN BARCLAY,
Secretary Jamaica Agricultural Society,
82 Hanover St., Kingston,

Branch Notes.

AEOLUS VALLEY.—Mr. Briscoe, Travelling Instructor, visited this Branch on Tuesday 5th March. Although the Secretary had received notice of the Instructor's visit in February many of the members had gone to Morant Bay to sell bananas : 10 members, 2 visitors and 48 children of the Voluntary School were, however, present. The Meeting opened with prayer. The Minutes were read and confirmed and the correspondence was also read. Mr Briscoe addressed the meeting and expressed regret for having been unable to visit the Branch earlier on account of the disaster resulting from the earthquake in Kingston. Mr. Briscoe in delivering his lecture touched on the great value of agriculture and the help which had been given from that source to the sufferers in Kingston. He strongly advised agriculture generally, not only cocoa, coffee and other products, but advocated the growing of hard wood. He suggested that if the members would make out a list he would get as many as possible of the plants required. He referred to the demand for hardwood to build houses and other buildings and said it would make land valuable if planted thereon. At present hardwood is mostly got from the Cockpit parish at great expense. In referring to cocoa planting, caring and curing by fermentation he stated that the latter should take six days at least and be turned up every two days. For propagation only the best varieties and best pods should be selected. Mr. Briscoe promised at his next visit in April to bring a few pods of the best kind. The Minutes of the Loan Bank were subsequently read and showed that the interest gained on £8 at 3 months to be £1 : 7 : 9 to date December 13th 1906. The Chairman asked the members to combine in pushing forward and the result would be satisfactory. The Chairman asked Mr. Harding and other Inspectors of holdings to make a fresh start and he the Chairman would visit some holdings at an early date. Mr. Briscoe promised every available help to this Society, even in using his influence with members of the Parochial Board in Morant Bay relating to a petition to be drawn up by this Society. The Secretary moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, seconded by the Chairman and carried. The meeting then came to a close —R A. JONES, Secretary.

APPLETON.—A meeting of the Appleton Agricultural Society was held at Glen Stuart on the 23rd inst. There were present: Messrs. J. M. Farquharson, President; W. Cradwick, Travelling Instructor; and several other members. Rev. J. A. Black, of Carisbrooke, was elected a member of the society. The Secretary presented the balance sheet for the year ending December 31st, 1906. It shows that the society has in hand over £18. It was agreed to present the Secretary with a souvenir, and the matter was left in the hands of the President. The following address was presented to Mr. Cradwick :—" Dear Mr. Cradwick—This being your last visit to this society as Agricultural Instructor, we feel it incumbent on us to express to you our deep regret at your departure. From the inception of this society you have taken the greatest interest in it, and much of its progress is due to your indefatigable help. By your frank and genial disposition, gentlemanly and courteous ways practical and lucid style of presenting facts as an Agricultural Instructor, you have endeared yourself to every member of this society. You must have noticed our efforts to keep you in this district, by the resolution we sent to the parent society. In doing so we were prompted by the same good feelings, which we can but half express, and by the fear that such an early removal would blight the fruits of a labour so zealously and effectively bestowed. Through official regulations we are sorry that we are prevented from presenting you with a souvenir, as a token of our high esteem, but with this address we wish you abundant success and prosperity in your new sphere, and hope that you may long be spared to further develop the Agricultural resources of our island. On behalf of the Appleton Agricultural Society. We are, dear sir, Yours sincerely, J. M. FARQUHARSON (Presid.) GEO. RAMTALLIE (Sect.)" Mr. Cradwick in replying said:—" Mr. Chairman, Secretary and Members of the Appleton Agricultural society,—I sever my connection with the Appleton Branch with the deepest regret. chiefly on account of the satisfaction I have derived in working with such an energetic branch. A branch started in February, 1905, and can now boast of having a membership of 130, which had since its inception held two very successful shows, and which as was shown by the Treasurer's balance has such a comfortable little nest-egg in the bank is

surely a branch worth working with. I cannot allow this occasion to pass with out testifying my high appreciation of the energy and capability of your Secre tary Mr. George Ramtallie, and the Branch should think itself exceedingly fortu nate in having such a Secretary, for while it seemed that all the officers, fron the genial President downwards, worked cordially and willingly for the good o the society, it must be confessed that without the extraordinary amount of time and labour bestowed on it by the Secretary, the Branch would never have grown to what it is. While this is only a temporary farewell, I ask you to give a hearty welcome to Mr. J. T. Palache, your new Instructor. If invited, I shall be very glad to help you at your next show, which I hope will be even more successful than the last. I, however, wish to sound one note of warning, and that is, the society should not allow the shows to monopolize all their attention; but the encouragement of your old friends, coffee, cocoa, sugar, pimento, ginger vegetables and the making acquaintance with new friends in the shape of new industries, was what the society was formed especially for, and not for making one big effort in the shape of a show once a year and then going to sleep for the balance of the year. If you take care of your cultivations the shows will take care of themselves. My advice to you is grow the products and the holding of a show will be an easy matter."—GEO. RAMTALLIE, Secretary.

CENTRAL CORNWALL.—The removal of the Rev. John Duff from Mount Ward to Williamsfield will be a loss to agricultural interests in St. James. As president of the Central Cornwall Branch of the Agricultural Society and Chairman of the Montpelier Show Committee he will be much missed, but it is hoped that he will in his new sphere, where the scope is quite as great, take as deep an interest in all agricultural affairs.

LAMBS RIVER.—The annual meeting of this Branch Society was held in the Mount Hermon School on Friday, February 22nd at 11 a.m. Present:—Mr. J. R. Williams (president) Rev. T. B. Prentice (Vice president) Messrs. W. Cradwick and H. D. Mennell (Agricultural Instructors) H. Hart, G. Warburton, J. F. Lawrence, E. Graham, Mrs. D. Hylton, and P. A. Smellie (Secretary). It was agreed to obtain some pure bred Indian game fowls for crossing with the Society's Plymouth Rocks, and to dispose of the Plymouth rooster, Mr. E. Graham reported the death of the Society's Poland China Boar. The Treasurer's account was read and showed £5 6s 5½d. to the credit of the Society. The scheme for starting two classes (one in Seaford Town, the other in Belvedere Mountain) for instruction in Jippi Jappa hat making was fully discussed. The Rev. T B. Prentice reported that the Instructor would be ready to begin her work the beginning of April and a full number of candidates at each centre was reported. Mr. Cradwick gave a short lecture on the plant for which he thought most of this district was favourable, and on the preparation of the straw and showed samples. The members present, through the Secretary ordered 600 plants to start cultivation in different parts of the district. It was decided that the fees for instruction at the hat-making classes (12s. for the 12 weeks' course) should be paid in 3 instalments, monthly in advance to the Treasurer of the Society. The Secretary was directed to obtain cured straw to start the working of the classes, also green heads for instruction in the curing. Mr. Mennell discussed the points in which the improvement in Agricultural work in his district was apparent and the points to which attention was still urgently required. Cocoa and yam and banana cultivation he thought showed improvement, especially in Hanover. He advocated increased attention to bees. There was some discussion with regard to the cultivation of sarsaparilla and the Secretary was directed to order 50 plants for distribution next meeting as an experiment. He was also directed to obtain a few heads of the St. Vincent yam, the success of which in Manchester was described by Mr. Cradwick. This being the last meeting Mr. Cradwick would attend as Instructor for the district, appreciation of his work and regret at his removal were expressed by various members. He urged the members to make serious preparation for next Prize Holdings Competition in the parish. The officers of the Society for the ensuing year were re-elected unanimously, Viz. Mr. J. R. Williams (President) Revs. P. Williams and T. B. Prentice (Vice Presidents) Messrs. T. B. Lawrence and P. A. Smellie (Treasurer and Secretary respectively.—P. A. SMELLIE, Secy.

MOCHO AND BRIXTON HILL.—The weather in this district is very dry It has been so during November and December of last year and January of this year. February brought a welcome change but March brought dry weather

again. Water is scarce. Already the inhabitants have to be going miles to get it as all the tanks and ponds in the district are dry or nearly so. Much corn was planted in February but it is all spoiled. The people are preparing to plant again. Cultivation is at a standstill. The coffee crop promises to be very large but a week or two more of this weather may greatly affect it.—J. AUG. RHODEN, Secretary.

PEDRO.—The first Quarterly meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday evening, 27th ult. The President Mr. A. M. Hylton, was absent through illness and Mr. W. A. Kidd, one of the Vice Chairmen was voted to the chair. There was a large turn out of the members, besides general public. Mr. Arnett, the Local Instructor was also present. The meeting having been opened, some official correspondence was read and a report of the meetings of the Board of Management was given. The Board of Management made the following recommendations. 1.—That printed circulars be issued to the members announcing date of Meeting. 2.—That as soon as the funds will allow a good ram be imported for the Society to improve the breed of goats in the district. 3.—That a Stock and Vegetable Show be held at a convenient centre, at an early date. Mr. Arnett at this stage was called upon to address the meeting. He had great pleasure he said, in being present at the first Quarterly Meeting of the Society, and to know from the Report read, that this branch had been working so well. He hoped that this Branch would in time, become one of the brightest in the Island. The General Committee then dealt with the recommendations made by the Board of Management. It was unanimously agreed that printed circulars be issued to the members announcing date of meeting. Mr. Arnett kindly promised to secure a good Angora Ram for the Society, the members agreeing to subscribe the money. The Society will probably hold its first Show next year, and as there will be no Show at Thicketts, but at Brown's Town, he believes that a great measure of success will attend it. Our Local Instructor has kindly promised to do his best to help us in this and other matters connected with our Society. The members were strongly advised to go to Thicketts Show on the 1st of August and to take down Exhibits. An excellent lesson on the cultivation of corn and the selection of good seed corn was given by the Instructor. The lesson was a very practical one and some of the facts were unknown even to the oldest cultivator present. Samples of good and inferior corn were shown to the members and the difference was clearly pointed out. At the close Mr. Arnett presented half bushel of very good seed corn to the members and advised them to go and plant according to his directions. At the next quarterly meeting in June Mr. Arnett will give a lesson on cocoa cultivation. The next business was the announcing of the result of the Prize Holdings Competition. There were 37 persons from this district who competed, and 12 of the number are to receive prizes. Mr. A. M. Hylton comes first in class 3, and Mr. Samuel Beckford 3rd in class 1. When it is considered that the competitors had only a few weeks to prepare their holdings, the result is very satisfactory indeed, and the competitors are to be highly congratulated. The people in the district have taken a great interest in the matter, and we are certain the work of the judges will double next time. A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Arnett, who spoke continuously for over three hours. He replied in suitable terms. It is quite a pity that the services of this gentleman cannot be had monthly instead of Quarterly. Weather and Crops :—We have had no rain since February and should the drought continue much longer we will all be in a fearful condition. W. J. FRANCIS, Secretary.

PORUS.—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the School Room on the 4th March. The Rev. W. B. Esson president, in the Chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. In the business arising from the minutes, Mr. M. Daley contended that the amount collected for the Show and now put in the Government Savings Bank, should be put on the minutes, the sum referred to being £13. The next business taken was that of the nomination of a J. P. It was moved by Mr. V. N. Magnus seconded by Mr. A. T. McPherson that the Porus Branch write to the Custos the Hon. J. P. Clark asking that the Rev. W. B. Esson being a fit and proper person be appointed a J. P. It was suggested at this stage that the matter could not be dealt with as the Constitution was not put in its proper form. It was also moved by Mr. V. N. Magnus, seconded by Mr. W. T. McPherson that the Rules be put aside and this matter be dealt with at once. An amendment was

here made by Mr. D. Crosbie seconded by Mr. C. Rowland, "That as the Constitution was not on the table, the meeting should here stand adjourned." An amendment was also made by Mr. D. Crosbie seconded by Mr. C. Rowland that the matter of a J. P. was not one with which the Agricultural Society should interfere. Mr. Magnus the V. P. was asked to take the Chair—after the Resolution was put forth as the President was interested. Mr. Crosbie frankly objected to the V. P. taking the Chair at this juncture; and emphatically entered a protest, aud the matter was ultimately dropped. Mr. Magnus gave a notice of motion to be dealt with at the next meeting, e. g.:—Be it resolved that the Porus Branch Agricultural Society write to the Hon. J. P. Clark to propose that the Rev. W. B. Esson be made a J. P. for Porus as being fit for the position. The meeting subsequently dealt with other matters. It was moved by Mr. V. N. Magnus and seconded by Mr. W. T. McPherson that Mr. Williams write Mr. Barclay asking him about a Boar. Mr. Crosbie suggested that Mr. McPherson be asked to read a paper on Coffee Curing—also that Mr. Williams be asked to write a paper on the best way of improving the breed of Pigs. It was suggested that the Secretary write up the revised Rules and that same be put on the table for next meeting. Moved by Mr. Crosbie, and seconded by Mr. Williams that the meeting stands adjourned. For the want of a Quorom the Regular Meeting could not be held up to 8 p.m. on the evening of the 1st inst., and so the members present, Messrs. W. A. Morgan, C. Rowland, and Alexander Thomas, formed themselves into a Committee in order that the affiliation fee to the parent Society be sent in time: W. A. MORGAN, Secy.

ST. ANN'S (CLAREMONT.)—The usual quarterly meeting of this Branch was held at Claremont on Wednesday 6th March 1907. There were present:—Messrs. Adam Roxburgh (in the chair) Ed. Pratt, Percy Fox, Rev. H. Sharp, Hon. H. E. Cox, Messrs. Thos. Dobson, J. E. L. Cox, K. Roxburgh, Stephen Lawrence and J. C. McIntyre (Secretary). The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. It was decided to hold the usual Show at Thickets on the first August next. The Show Committee was then appointed, with Mr. Pratt as Chairman. The 21st March was fixed for the Committee to meet and arrange the prize list. Two new members were elected. The meeting then adjourned.—J. C. MCINTYRE, Secretary.

THOMPSON TOWN.—On Thursday 28th March Mr. J. Palache, Agricultural Instructor for Clarendon visited this district for the purpose of giving a lecture and practical demonstration. The members did not turn out so the time was spent in giving a lecture to the scholars of the Thompson Town School. The lecture was very helpful and interesting. He encouraged the children to gather information and make practical use of the lessons learnt in school and garden. A vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer at the close. The dry weather has been telling dreadfully on the crops. There is a great failure of the corn and yam crops. Hunger will soon be staring many in the face. A kind of bowel sickness has been taking off many children. No proper remedy can be found. The next meeting of the Society will come off in May. The date is not yet fixed.—W. A. BRYAN, Secretary.

REVISED RATES

—FOR—

Advertisements in this Journal

One Page—One Insertion —	0	10	0	——Three Insertions		8	6
——Three Insertions	1	7	6	——Six Insertions	0	15	0
——Six Insertion	2	12	0	——Twelve Insertions	1	7	6
——Twelve Insertions	5	0	0	Eighth Page—One Insertion	0	2	0
Half Page—One Insertion	0	6	0	——Three Insertions	0	5	0
——Three Insertions	0	15	0	——Six Insertions	0	8	0
——Six Insertions	1	7	6	Twelve Insertions	0	15	0
——Twelve Insertions	2	12	6	Members Announcements in Stock and Produce Exchange —24 Words—	0	1	0
Quarter Page—One Insertion	0	3	6				

LIST OF BRANCH SOCIETIES.

NAMES OF BRANCHES.	SECRETARIES.	POST OFFICES.
Aberdeen ...	H. W. Hay ...	Fellowship.
Æolus Valley ...	Robt. A. Jones ...	Yallahs.
Appleton ...	Geo. Ramtallie ...	Siloah.
Balaclava ...	A. A. Doran ...	Balaclava.
Bath ...	Rev. D. D. Parnther, B.A.	Bowden.
Black River ..	A. A. Kennedy, B. A. ...	Black River
Cambridge ...	R. A. Clare ...	Gordon Town.
Clarksonville ...	Saml. E Hall ...	Cave Valley.
Cornwall (Central) ...	E. S. Jarrett ...	Ipswich
Clarendon, (North-East) —	W. B. Hannan ...	Croft's Hill
Clarendon (Mid.) ...	S. Algon Johnson ...	Four Paths.
Christiana ..	Rev. Dr. Turner ...	Christiana.
Duan Vale ...	E. J. Hawkes ...	Clarke's Town.
Deeside ...	R. R. McBayne ...	Deeside.
Davyton ...	J. Thomas. Hemans –	Williamsfield
Fairfield ...	H. E. Wright ...	Spur Tree.
Fair Prospect ...	W. Z. Buckley ...	Priestman's River.
Hanover ...	Rev. Jno. F. Gartshore	Flint River.
Hampstead ...	E. Saml. Exell ...	Hampstead.
Hampden ...	I. Lawrence ...	Hampden
Lamb's River ...	P. A. Smellie ...	Lamb's River.
Manchester, (East Central) ...	W. M. O'Meally ...	Mandeville.
Manchioneal ...	L. R. McBean ...	Manchioneal.
Mocho and Brixton Hill ...	J. A. R. Rhoden ...	Mocho.
Newmarket ...	A. E. U Shakespeare ...	Newmarket.
Ocho Rios ...	L. C. B. Yeoman ...	Ocho Rios.
Pedro ...	W. J. Francis ...	Pedro.
Port Maria ...	H. J. Dakers ...	Port Maria.
Porus ...	W. A. Morgan ...	Porus.
Port Royal Mountains ...	C. L. A. Rennalls ...	Mavis Bank.
Portland, (Central) ...	Albert Roper ...	St. Margaret's Bay.
Red Hills ...	J A. Wallen ...	Belvidere.
Rio Minho Valley ...	U. Theodore McKay ..	Frankfield.
Retreat ...	... Dixon ...	Retreat
Savanna-la-Mar ...	A. W. Levy ...	Savanna-la-mar.
Springfield ...	D. A. Smart ...	Point.
St. Ann ...	J. C. McIntyre ...	Claremont.
St. George's ...	Rev. W. J. Thompson ...	Buff Bay.
St. John's ...	S. A. Banton ...	Guanaboa Vale.
St. John's, Upper ...	W. T. Edwards ...	Point Hill.
St. Peter's ...	J. Ed. Simms ...	Petersfield.
St. Andrew (Northern) ...	Rev. G. A. Miller ...	Lawrence Tavern.
St. Andrew (Central) ...	J. P. Leigh ...	Stony Hill
Sergeantville ...	J. O. Rennalls ...	Bog Walk.
Santa Cruz ...	S. A. Blythe ...	Santa Cruz.
Santa Cruz Mountains ...	John Stewart ...	Malvern
Trelawny, (Upper) ...	J. D. Easy ...	Albert Town
Trinityville ...	E. S. Edwards ...	Trinityville
Thompson Town ...	W. A. Bryan ...	Mocho